

Hafa Adai!

'Vexatious litigant's' bid to have case dismissed is junked. **PAGE 5**
Sex abuse defendant re-arrested hours after release. **PAGE 5**

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75¢

Land use plan in the works

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

After years of delay and nearly two months of back-to-back negotiations, the Department of Public Lands finally reached an agreement with an engineering firm to start the long-overdue land use plan for the entire Commonwealth.

FSM's Nan Madol, 20 others, added to World Heritage List

By **JULIE MAKINEN**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Fossil-rich cliffs in Canada from 500 million years ago, sea caves used by Neanderthals, 99 artificial islands in the remote Pacific Ocean and 17 structures designed by the French-Swiss architect Le Corbusier are among 21 new sites inscribed on the

World Heritage List.

The additions include two sites each in China, India and Iran, and give the Caribbean nation of Antigua and Barbuda its first site on the list, a historic dockyard.

The additions were made by UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, which opened its annual

See FSM on Page 2

According to Public Lands Secretary Marianne Teregeyo yesterday, DPL awarded the contract to SSFM International Inc. to spearhead the development of the land use plan.

A land use plan is a master inventory of all public lands, including their types, uses, and zoning prohibitions. It also identifies ideal sites for homesteads, community recreational

sites, and business development.

"A year from now, we should have a final product," said Teregeyo, hoping that no "unforeseen circumstances

See LAND on Page 4



SUMMER CAMP

The Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation recently took their summer program students to the Northern Marianas College garden to educate them on the importance of locally grown produce.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

CUC water loss falls to 59 percent

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

For the first time in many years, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water loss has fallen to 59 percent, according to CUC executive director Gary Camacho.

» **CUC chief assures more efforts to reduce loss further**

"That's a great number. Many utilities don't have those numbers. It's something that we targeted," said Camacho on Tuesday.

He assured, though, that 59 percent is not their final target and they are pushing to make that go further down.

He noted that the Water Division's non-revenue loss—water that is produced and is "lost" before it reaches the customer—in April was reported at 70 percent. In May, that loss went down to 64.4 percent.

See CUC on Page 4



WIKIPEDIA

Nan Madol has been called the "Venice of the Pacific" because of its extensive system of canals.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

President Donald Trump declares it's time to "let Obamacare fail."

PAGE 13



ASIA

Filipino rebel group refuses to broker deal for ISIS militants.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

With the "Game of Thrones" ratings, it seems women dominate Westeros as ever.

PAGE 21



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Local

FSM

From Page 1

meeting in Istanbul last week. The gathering was supposed to continue through Wednesday, but was cut short by an attempted coup in Turkey. Still, delegates managed to finish their business of making additions to the list, which now totals 1,052 sites.

Inclusion on the list can provide a huge boost to tourism but also puts pressure on governments to preserve and protect the sites in question. In addition to designating new World Heritage Sites, the committee also added sites in Mali, Uzbekistan, Libya and Micronesia to its List of World

Heritage in Danger, a tally of places facing grave threats from conflict, neglect, overdevelopment and other forces.

To be chosen for the World Heritage List, sites are to be “of outstanding universal value” and meet at least one out of 10 other selection criteria, among them that they “represent a masterpiece of human creative genius” or “contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.”

Here’s a look at the new sites and why they were selected:

■ Micronesia: Nan Madol Ceremonial Center

These 99 artificial islets off the southeast coast of Pohnpei,

southeast of Guam, contain the remains of stone palaces, temples, tombs and homes built between 1200 and 1500. This was the ceremonial center of the Saudeleur dynasty, which ruled the island of Pohnpei. Nan Madol has been called the “Venice of the Pacific” because of its extensive system of canals.

Made of basalt and coral boulder, “the huge scale of the edifices, their technical sophistication and the concentration of megalithic structures bear testimony to complex social and religious practices of the island societies of the period,” the committee said. But the panel also added the area to its list of endangered sites, noting that siltation of water-

ways is leading to unchecked growth of mangroves and undermining the buildings.

■ China: Hubei Shennongjia

The largest primary forest remaining in central China, this area is home to many rare animals including the Chinese giant salamander, the golden or snub-nosed monkey, the clouded leopard, common leopard and the Asian black bear. The area was the focus of international plant collecting expeditions in the 19th and 20th centuries.

■ China: Zuojiang Huashan rock art landscape

Thirty-eight sites of rock art in southwest China dating from the 5th century B.C. that illustrate the life and rituals of the Luoyue people; these are the only remains of this culture today.

■ Architectural works of Le Corbusier

This “site” is actually 17 structures in seven countries designed by the modernist Swiss-born French architect Charles-Edouard Jeanneret-Gris, better known as Le Corbusier. The structures, including a chapel, a museum and a home, are in India, Japan, Argentina, France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland.

Le Corbusier, born in 1887, built mainly with steel and reinforced concrete, employing geometric forms. The buildings, the committee said, “are a testimonial to the invention of a new architectural language that made a break with the past.”

Le Corbusier died in 1965. “These masterpieces of creative genius also attest to the internationalization of architectural practice across the planet,” the panel added.

■ Canada: Mistaken Point

A 10-mile stretch of rugged cliffs, this area at the southeastern end of Newfoundland contains a large number of fossils from the Ediacaran Period that began 580 million years ago. The marine fossils here “illustrate a watershed in the history of life on Earth: the appearance of large, biologically complex organisms, after almost 3 billion years of micro-dominated evolution,” the committee said.

■ Mexico: Archipiélago de Revillagigedo

These four islands off Mexico’s Pacific Coast are submerged volcanoes, their peaks poking above sea level. The islands of San Benedicto, Socorro, Roca Partida and Clario provide habitat for seabirds and the nearby waters have large numbers of whales, sharks, dolphins and manta rays. The islands are southwest of the tip of Baja

California Sur, and due west of Mexico City.

■ Antigua: Naval dockyard and archaeological sites

Becoming the first World Heritage listed area in Antigua and Barbuda, this group of naval buildings was chosen for its historical significance. These Georgian style buildings were constructed by the British navy with the labor of African slaves. The dockyard was built to repair ships and protect the interests of sugar cane growers when European powers were vying for control of the Eastern Caribbean. Antigua is about 150 miles east of Puerto Rico.

■ Sudan: Two marine national parks

This site is actually two separate areas, one a coral reef called Sanganeb Marine National Park and the other a collection of reefs, beaches, islets, mangroves and seagrass beds known as Dungonab Bay-Mukkawar Island Marine National Park. The area is home to the dugong, a rare marine animal, as well as fish, turtles, birds and sharks.

■ Iran: The Lut desert

Strong winds sweep across this desert between June and October, tracing massive corrugated ridges known as aeolian yardang. This region, spanning more than 8,000 square miles in Iran’s southeast, also contains extensive stony deserts and dune fields.

■ Iran: the Persian Qanat

Qanats are sloping below-ground tunnels or channels designed to divert water where it’s needed in settlements in dry regions. These gravity-based engineering works, spanning miles, include rest areas for workers, water reservoirs and watermills. The traditional communal management system is still in place and allows fair and sustainable water sharing and distribution, the committee said. “The qanats provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate,” it added.

■ Brazil: Pampulha Modern Ensemble

Another architectural selection, these culture and leisure structures — including a casino, a ballroom, a golf yacht club and a church — were designed by Oscar Niemeyer in conjunction with other artists. They formed the center of a “visionary garden city project” created in 1940. Located at Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais state, the buildings were designed around an artificial lake.

The complex includes “bold forms that exploit the plastic potential of concrete, while fusing architecture, landscape

design, sculpture and painting into a harmonious whole,” the committee said. “It reflects the influence of local traditions, the Brazilian climate and natural surroundings on the principles of modern architecture.”

■ India: Khangchendzonga National Park

A Himalayan expanse comprising plains, valleys, lakes, glaciers and snow-capped mountains covered with ancient forests, this park includes the world’s third-highest peak. Indigenous Sikkim people worship caves, rivers, lakes and other natural elements in this region, and they have fused these beliefs with Buddhist practices and concepts.

■ India: Nalanda University archaeological site

These remains are of the most ancient university of the Indian subcontinent, which was active for some 800 years. The remnants of this monastic and scholarly institution date from the 3rd century B.C. and include stupas, shrines, residential and educational buildings. It is closely associated with the development of Buddhism into a major world religion.

■ Turkey: Ani archaeological site

A medieval city on the border with Armenia, Ani flourished in the 900 and 1000s when it became the capital of the medieval Armenian kingdom of the Bagratides and profited from control of part of the Silk Road. Later it came under Byzantine, Seljuk and Georgian rule, but it maintained its status as an important crossroads for merchants. The Mongol invasion and a large earthquake in 1319 marked the start of its decline. Still, Ani “presents a comprehensive overview of the evolution of medieval architecture through examples of almost all the different architectural innovations of the region between the 7th and 13th centuries,” the committee said.

■ Britain: Gorham’s Cave on Gibraltar

Four caves in the limestone cliffs on the eastern side of the Rock of Gibraltar contain evidence, including rock engravings, of Neanderthal occupation over a span of more than 125,000 years.

“Scientific research on these sites has already contributed substantially to debates about Neanderthal and human evolution,” the committee said. Gibraltar is a British territory off the south coast of Spain at the mouth of the Mediterranean.





■ Greece: Philippi archaeological site

The remains of this walled


See FSM on Page 4

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Santos expresses support for CHCC budget

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A Senate lawmaker supports the Commonwealth Healthcare Center's request for \$90 million in the fiscal year 2018 budget proposal, along with the over \$12 million budget request of the Medical Referral Services for the same fiscal year.

Senate Health and Welfare Committee chair Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she applauds the corporation's efforts to increase the salaries of its medical staff to make the corporation more competitive with the likes of Guam and the U.S. mainland.

"This will definitely attract [key medical positions] to apply in the Commonwealth, most especially during this time when the CNMI is encountering CW-1 issues,"

MINA struggles with budget cut

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Federal budget cuts are seriously affecting environmental watchdog Micronesia Island Nature Alliance and the continued survival of many of its programs.

According to MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, the group is currently faced with a 30-percent cut in its annual budget and its Tasi Ranger Watch Program faces the most damage if nothing is done about the lack of funding.

The Tasi Ranger Watch Program ensures safer oceans for locals and tourists. Its rangers are constantly on the lookout for possible threats to the Saipan lagoon such as illegal dumping and possible cases of erosion that could pollute the lagoon.

Another responsibility given to these rangers is reforestation in order to minimize chances of erosion.

In the wake of Typhoon Soudelor, many trees were completely uprooted. To combat that, MINA rangers were authorized to plant new seedlings in their place. But, again, because of the budget cut implemented by the federal

said Santos, adding that the increase would also be implemented for both Rota and Tinian health center employees.

Along with salary increases, CHCC has also been vocal about procuring more equipment in order to upgrade its services, which is also included in the \$90-million budget proposal.

"CHCC has the intent of upgrading its services, which in turn may help to reduce the costs of sending patients outside of the CNMI [through the Medical Referral System]," said Santos.

According to Santos, sending patients outside of the CNMI for medical services costs the government an average of \$13 million to \$15 million annually.

Among other improvements, Santos wishes the corporation would provide free meals to Rota and Tinian

government, MINA is having issues with that project. Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that without enough funds, there won't be enough manpower to carry out the reforestation.

According to Guerrero, MINA lacks about \$55,000 to continue with many projects. MINA gets a portion of its funding from the federal Coral Reef Initiative Program of the Office of Insular Affairs.

MINA is now leaning on fundraisers and grant agencies to replace the funds that were lost after the budget cuts. One of its upcoming fundraisers will be the Green Gala on Sept. 15, 2017, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at 6pm. Tickets are currently being sold at \$75 apiece.

The gala will showcase locally grown produce, from vegetables to fish, and even pork.

Despite its funding setbacks, Guerrero said that MINA is resilient and will continue to make do with what they have and will continue to make a way to replace what they don't have.

Guerrero pointed out that MINA has lasted 12 years and she is confident that they will get by and will continue to carry out their work for more years to come.

Water service interruption in Kagman

The entire Kagman will experience a water service interruption on Monday, July 24, from 9am to 1pm, due to a leak detection survey of the area.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s leak detection consultant will be performing leak detection on the CUC water transmission lines throughout Kagman. In doing so, shutting-off the water wells is required to locate leaks in the area. This project will enhance CUC's capability to provide reliable water service in the fu-

ture and reduce inconvenience to its consumers.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is expected to continue throughout August. Water service interruption within the area will not be required then.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

inter-island referrals. Santos stated that the meals would greatly assist patients who are "displaced [due to] the lack of dialysis centers on Rota and Tinian and whose stipends have been discontinued."

Yet Santos herself acknowledges that CHCC may not get the entire \$90 million it is asking for for next fiscal year.

MRS supported by Santos

Santos also expressed support for the \$12 million budget request of the Medical Referral Services for fiscal year 2018.

"Until CHCC can adequately provide the necessary medical services required for our patients and in order to perfect our medical referral services and program, it is incumbent on the CNMI Legislature to appropriate sufficient funding for our medical referral program," said Santos.

According to her, Medical Referral Services numbers show that the CNMI refers on average 60 patients to Guam, 28 to 30 patients to Hawaii, and 32 to 35 patients to the Philippines each month.

"These estimates cost the

CNMI government [about] \$13 million to \$15 million annually," she said.

A small portion of patients that could not be accommodated by one of these three referral locations are sent to San Diego, California.

"Averaging five to six patients per month, it is necessary that funding be appropriated so our referral patients in San Diego can avail of the same services that we provide [to] Guam, Philippines, and Hawaii referrals," she said.

According to Santos, patients referred to San Diego are assisted by the CNMI San Diego Club, which is led by Dave Atalig, Yvonne Omen-

gabar, Becky Norita, and Sue Cabrera "without any form of compensation or payment."

The fiscal year 2018 budget is currently being discussed at the House of Representatives. House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune* last week that a budget bill could be expected at the end of the month.

Following the passage and adoption of the budget bill at the House level, the budget bill then goes to the Senate's Fiscal Affairs Committee before going to the Senate floor. Once passed by both Senate and House, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres would then review the bill.



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UOG bio major participates in Harvard program

Junior University of Guam biology major Jerilyn Calaor is spending this summer conducting research at Harvard University's Forest Summer Research in Ecology Program.

The 11-week program selects top students from across the nation, offering opportunity for participants to engage in mentored, paid, independent research focused on the effects of natural and human disturbances on forest ecosystems.

"I didn't believe it at first," Calaor said. "I mean, to be honest, when I turned in the application, [I thought] it was a long shot because it's Harvard. But, after going through the interview process and finally getting accepted, I was really happy with the outcome."

Not a stranger to building her résumé during school breaks, Calaor participated last year in the Native American Pacific Islander Research Experience program in the jungles of Costa Rica.

University of Guam biology major Jerilyn Calaor is conducting research at Harvard University's Forest Summer Research in Ecology Program this summer. The program offers the opportunity for participants to engage in mentored, paid, independent research focused on the effects of natural and human disturbances on forest ecosystems. **UOG**

"I really liked that experience, because I want to pursue a career in ecology, and felt NAPIRE met my interests," she said. "In school, the hot topics were conservation and sustainability. I knew I wanted a career in environmental science and, seeing the cool things the professors get to do, I wanted to do ecology too."

While at Harvard, Calaor is focusing on cow grazing and its effect on invasion dynamics at the university's farm.

"This project is one that I think is really relevant for Guam, particularly because



we have issues with feral ungulate populations," she said.

SEEDS fellowship

Following her acceptance into the Harvard Forest Summer Research Program, Calaor was surprised to find another opportunity waiting for her.

Based solely on her personal statement and résumé submitted in her application, Harvard nominated Calaor to a fellowship run by the Ecological Society of America.

The prestigious Strategies for Ecology, Education, Diversity and Sustainability Fellowship helps promote diversity and inspire future ecol-

ogists, said associate professor of Biology Dr. Frank Camacho. Although having filled all six slots for the fellowship, the ESA made an exception and invited Calaor to be their seventh fellow.

"It's very exciting for me," she said. "The best part of it all is being able to represent UOG. Being a student at UOG has given me so many opportunities."

Calaor is expected to continue conducting research throughout the fall semester and present the abstract of her findings at the ESA national conference in New Orleans next August. **(UOG)**

CUC

From Page 1

Camacho attributed the progress to CUC deputy executive director William Gilmore, the management of the water division, and most especially in water and billing and other areas.

"Obviously, they worked together in trying to address some of the issues," identifying areas that are unregistered, and that water usages have been corrected and properly billed, he said.

He said the division plans to intensify its efforts to push down that loss further. He said CUC wants to work with the American Waterworks Association, the American Public Power Association, and

other associations that CUC is a member of. Camacho said these groups can assist CUC in preparing a strategic plan for water, power, and wastewater.

Camacho said they looked at areas like leak detection, identified unregistered usage and corrected them, and replaced dysfunctional meters with new meters.

"The results show," he said.

Last February, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency inspector John Tinger disclosed in court documents that CUC loses about 70 to 75 percent of drinking water it produces and incurs substantial unrecovered costs.

Tinger said the loss means that only 25 to 30 percent of CUC's water is billed to customers and generates revenue.

LAND

From Page 1

es" such as typhoons occur. "We have a year on the contract. ...[DPL] Procurement and Supply already issued the notice to proceed."

Once SSFM begins, a stakeholder meeting would take place.

According to Teregeyo, it would involve all government agencies that are concerned with public lands such as Zoning, Coastal Resources Management, etc.

A second meeting would take place to include legislators, followed by a meeting for each CNMI municipality.

"There would be initial meetings for Rota and Tinian, as well as one for the people of Pagan," said Teregeyo, adding that the Northern Islands would be included in the plan.

She pointed out, though, that Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion would be excluded since they are protected by the CNMI Constitution.

"SSFM has a subconsultant in Hawaii...they have a lot of direct work on land use plans in districts within Hawaii, so

we are happy to see that," said Teregeyo, indicating that this information was included in the contract.

"We are excited to move forward with it. The plan hasn't been updated for the last 20 years and so the land use plan is long overdue for the CNMI," she said.

Public Law 15-02, the law that also abolished the Marianas Public Lands Authority and created DPL in its stead, also required DPL to come up with a land use plan a year after its passage. The law was enacted during former governor Benigno R. Fitial's term.

Back in 2012, an organization known as the "Friends of Marpi" challenged the administration's plan to install power poles in Marpi. The project was ultimately cancelled after Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo put a hold on development in the northern part of Saipan, where Marpi is, until a land use plan is developed.

In 2015, the CNMI Legislature appropriated \$700,000 for the land use plan. The project did not go through after DPL released a request for proposal, but was reportedly not comfortable with offers.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Registration at Francisco M. Sablan Middle School

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School is reminding that all students, new and returning, must register for school year 2017-2018. Returning students must submit a registration form, medical clearance (blue card), and student insurance.

In addition to the three requirements, new students must submit their birth certificate, copy of last report card from the previous school year, transfer out form (if applicable), and map of residence.

The Francisco M. Sablan Middle School school zone is south of DPA Car Mart to Koblerville (south of St. Jude Church) and includes the As Gonno area.

All registration forms must be submitted at the office. Upon submission, the office staff will provide free meal

applications.

The school supplies lists are available at National Office, Modern Stationary, and at FMS Middle School. **(PR)**

WSR now accepting registrations

William S. Reyes Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians will need the following documents: updated health certificate, updated student insurance/Medicaid, birth certificate (new students), legal guardianship documents (if applicable/must be issued by a U.S. court system; affidavit and power of attorney do not apply). If legal guardianship documents were issued by a foreign court system, all documents must be translated and certified through a U.S. court system. Visit the school to

register. Contact the school at 664-3972 or 237-3542. **(PR)**

GMS registration

Green Meadow School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for first to eighth grade for school year 2017-2018. Visit the GMS business office in Chalan Kiya or Gualo Rai and pick up the registration form. We are also opening registration for first grade at the Gualo Rai branch. For inquiries call 235-2185, 233-6452 or 483-6452. **(PR)**

OES now accepting registrations

Oleai Elementary School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Parents and guardians of returning students are also asked to update registration and all supporting documents. Registration forms

are available at our main office. For more information or inquiry, call our main office at 664-3942. **(PR)**

MHS registration ongoing

Registration for new incoming and returning students for Marianas High School is ongoing until July 31, 2017. Copies of all required documents must be attached before your child can be registered. Call 664-3800/01 or visit www.marianashighschool.com for more information. **(PR)**

SSHS registration

Saipan Southern High School is now accepting registration for new and returning students for school year 2017-2018. Come to our main office and pick up registration forms. All requirements must be turned in. Call 664-4000/2 for any other information. **(PR)**

FSM

From Page 2

city sit on the Via Egnatia, an ancient route linking Europe and Asia. Philippi was founded in 356 B.C. by the Macedonian King Philip II and developed into a "small Rome" with the establishment of the Roman Empire in the decades following the Battle of Philippi, in 42 B.C. A hundred years later, the city became a Christian center following the visit of the Apostle Paul.

Spain: Antequera Dolmens

Built during the Neolithic and Bronze Age out of large

stone blocks, these three megalithic monuments are in Andalusia in southern Spain. These three tombs — the Menga and Viera dolmens and the Tolos of El Romeral — are one of the most remarkable architectural works of European prehistory and one of the most important examples of European Megalithism," the committee said. They are supplemented by two natural monuments: the Pena de los Enamorados and El Torcal mountain formations.

Iraq: The Ahwar

Comprised of seven sites in Iraq's rich southern marshlands, this area encompasses three archaeological

areas including the cities of Uruk and Ur and four wetland marsh areas. These contain the remains of Sumerian cities and settlements that developed in southern Mesopotamia between the 4th and the 3rd millennium B.C. in the marshy delta of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Chad: Ennedi Massif

Designated as a "mixed cultural and natural site," Ennedi Massif is a sandstone formation sculpted by water and wind erosion over time into a plateau featuring canyons and valleys. Rock and cave paintings and carvings in this region are one of the largest ensembles of rock art

in the Sahara.

Trans-boundary site: Western Tien-Shan

Spanning Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, the Tien-Shan mountains are very biodiverse, and they are the origin of many fruits grown as crops today. The mountains range from 2,300 feet to more than 14,000 feet.

Trans-boundary site: Medieval tombstones

This "site" includes 30 areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia that contain cemeteries and regionally distinctive medieval limestone tombstones called stecci. The cemeteries date from the 1100s to the 1500s.

'Vexatious litigant's' bid to have case dismissed is junked

The Superior Court denied yesterday John Sablan Pangelinan's motion to dismiss a lawsuit filed against him by a widow and her daughter, who accused him of abusing the legal system to extort money from them.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that Segundina Untalan Pangelinan and Selina Marie Pangelinan have standing to sue and have alleged enough facts to establish their claims against John Pangelinan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood earlier described John Pangelinan as a vexatious litigant.

In a footnote of his order yesterday, Camacho noted that John Pangelinan's repeated filing of motions with little substance with accompanying voluminous attachments is the same filing pattern that he used in a separate lawsuit.

He cited that John Pangelinan filed several motions last May 8.

The widow and her daughter are suing John Pangelinan for allegedly abusing the legal system to extort money from them by interfering in a probate matter despite not being a creditor.

Segundina Pangelinan and

her daughter, Selina Marie Pangelinan, are suing John Pangelinan for abuse of process and interference with contract.

Segundina and Selina Pangelinan, through counsel Janet H. King, asked the court to hold John Pangelinan liable to pay them damages, interest, and court costs.

According to the complaint, Segundina Pangelinan's husband, Norberto, passed away in August 2015. Norberto owned three parcels of land in Tanapag, but before he died, he entered into an agreement to lease the property to Peak Development LLC for 55 years for a total rent of \$3.2 million.

Norberto also entered into an agreement to sell his reversionary interest in the Tanapag property to Pedro Kileleman. But before the transactions could close, Norberto passed away, King said.

Segundina Pangelinan then initiated a probate proceeding for the estate of Norberto so that the lease and sale transactions could be properly completed.

During the probate proceeding, King said, John Pangelinan filed a *pro se* (or without a lawyer) action that challenged Norberto's title to the Tanapag prop-

erty, without evidence or legal support. The Superior Court rejected those challenges.

John Pangelinan then filed multiple motions to reconsider. The court also rejected those motions.

John Pangelinan then appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

By filing his challenges, motions to reconsider, and appeal, John Pangelinan perverted the legal process, King said.

John Pangelinan then filed the motion to dismiss the lawsuit against him. He asserted that the court lacks jurisdic-

tion over the subject matter and that plaintiffs fail to state a claim in their lawsuit.

Camacho heard the motion last May 23. King argued for the plaintiffs. John Pangelinan represented himself.

In his order yesterday, Camacho said that Segundina and Selina Pangelinan suffered an injury due to John Pangelinan's interference in a "land transaction between plaintiffs and a third party," and the plaintiffs suffered damages due to John Pangelinan's actions in the probate case.

Camacho said a favorable

outcome in Segundina and Selina Pangelinan's lawsuit would allow them to finalize any agreements on the Tanapag property and would remedy additional costs incurred by them to any abuse of process or interference with contract.

In sum, Camacho said, the plaintiffs pleaded every element of interference with contract.

In June 2008, Tydingco-Gatewood called John Pangelinan a vexatious litigant and prohibited him from filing any lawsuit or documents in federal court that is related to a 1997 civil lawsuit filed against him.

Tydingco-Gatewood also sanctioned John Pangelinan by ordering him to pay attorneys' fees and court costs to attorney Robert T. Torres for including the lawyer's clients in a \$61.1-million lawsuit, which the court found frivolous.

In June 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit disclosed that John Pangelinan initiated 18 litigations since 2000. The Ninth Circuit said his practice of burdening the court with meritless litigation justifies careful oversight of his future litigations. (*Ferdie De La Torre*)

Cops re-arrest sex abuse defendant hours after his case was dismissed

Police re-arrested on Tuesday night a 49-year-old man who had just been released from prison that afternoon after the Superior Court found no probable cause to charge him of sexually abusing two girls.

Police re-arrested Miguel Cecilio Arrozal in Susupe at 6:18pm after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an arrest warrant against him at 4:48pm that same day.

Camacho issued the arrest warrant after police re-filed the case against Arrozal.

At a preliminary hearing on Tuesday, Camacho determined that assistant attorney

general Teri Tenorio, counsel for the government, failed to ask the witness in the case any questions as to two counts of disturbing the peace.

Camacho said that Tenorio also failed to ask the witness in the case any questions as to the identification of Arrozal and his age.

Camacho dismissed the four charges without prejudice, which means the prosecution could re-file the case.

Camacho also ordered Arrozal's release from custody.

Arrozal was accused of sexually abusing two girls, aged 8 and 10, last May on Saipan. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Mass for 3 killed in sewer lift

There will be a memorial Mass today at the Mount Carmel Cathedral for the three Filipino workers who were killed on July 7 while working on a sewer well in San Antonio.

Their employer, USA Fanter, in collaboration with Philippine honorary consul to the Commonwealth Glicerio Arago, is hosting the memorial mass for the three victims: Ricky Quijano, 47; Amid Tapon, 41; and Danilo Paglinawan, 53.

The Mass is at 6pm tonight and the public is welcome to join the service. It will also serve as a rosary for the three men.

On Sunday, the United Filipino Organization will host a separate memorial service for the victims.

According to UFO president Marlon Regaton, the organization will be sponsoring a Mass in the morning and another in the evening.

The first Mass will be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral and will start at 11am. The second Mass will be at the Kristo Rai church and will start at 6pm. The public is invited.

The three men were doing repair work inside a 24-foot sewer lift station of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. at Pakpak Beach in San Antonio last July 7.

Tapon is survived by his wife Fredelyn, Quijano is survived by his wife Jenny, and Paglinawan is survived by his children Alvin and Allan. (*Kimberly A. Bautista*)

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CHCC gets \$693K for emergency prep, hearing detection

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is receiving \$692,935 in federal program funding, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan announced yesterday. Most of the money, \$627,895, will be used to keep the Commonwealth Health Center prepared for a variety of public health emergencies. The rest, \$65,040, will go to screening newborns for hearing problems.

"Congress appropriates the

preparedness funding through the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program and through the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program," Sablan said. "But the purpose of both programs is the same: to be sure that hospitals and other health-care systems are ready to deliver care effectively in the event of any public health emergency that may arise."

"While the risk of bioterrorism in the Marianas may

be low, we are too well aware that typhoons are always a threat to our islands. And other natural disasters, infectious disease outbreaks, and accidental releases of hazardous materials are also possibilities we need to be ready for. So these federal funds are very important."

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness program sets the goal for state, territorial, and local public health departments to develop and maintain

15 preparedness capabilities. These include public warning systems, volunteer management, and community recovery.

There are 62 recipients of the readiness funds nationwide, all the states and territories, as well as several large metropolitan areas.

The Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Information System program is the source of the remaining \$65,040 that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is receiving. The

funds support development and maintenance of a newborn hearing screening system. The system is also intended to continue monitoring children to be sure that they receive any necessary follow-up care.

"I will continue to speak up for all of these programs," Sablan said. "We need these services and capabilities in the Commonwealth Health Center, and without this federal

money I do not know that the Commonwealth government would be able to provide any alternative funding."

Last week the Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives released its proposed spending bill for the Department of Health and Human Services. Emergency preparedness funding got a \$45 million boost in the bill. (PR)

\$366K in grants for Kagman center, Tinian Youth Center

Over \$366,000 in federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant program from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was recently awarded for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Center and the Tinian Youth Center.

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. deputy director Zenie P. Mafnas informed the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs of their successful evaluation and selection under the grant program. The Kagman Community Center will receive \$323,081, while \$43,509.80 will go to the Tinian Youth Center.

"This program will fund the renovation and rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Center and the Tinian Youth Center," Mafnas said, adding that DCCA can begin the scope of

work and design plans needed to move the project forward before December 2017.

According to DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter, the funding will help continue and strengthen the Kagman Community Center operations as it serves an important role in providing a facility for daily after-school youth programs, and outreach activities.

"Seasonal programs like book distributions and holiday activities, increased outreach programs, public hearings, and the DCCA-DYS parent training and counseling programs are many of the key programs at Kagman Community Center. Unfortunately, due to damage from Typhoon Soudelor, the auditorium has not been usable. The rest of the facility has been badly in need of repair and/or renovation. These funds

will see the renovation of the entire facility," he said.

Hunter further noted that DCCA has also been working with Docomo Pacific on the development of activities at the center and the acquisition of new equipment.

"The construction of new outdoor sports and playground facilities at the center are also nearing completion and should be open to the public in late July," he said.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said the Tinian Youth Center grant award will strengthen TYC for valuable youth activities, parenting classes, and a variety of other important community activities.

The renovation of both facilities also take into account their role as long-term post-disaster emergency shelters.

"Creating safe centers for

enrichment, while also being shelters for emergencies is crucial," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "These two improvement projects will greatly benefit our community as we continue to improve our engagement and expand our economic opportunities. Our youth and community centers have needed improvement for quite some time, and I am pleased to see these plans move forward."

The Community Development Block Grant program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs and is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. For more information on CBDG, log on to www.nmhc.gov.net. (PR)

Company eyeing private land near Kalabera Cave for paragliding biz

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company is planning to open a paragliding business on private land south of the Kalabera Cave and east of the Department of Public Safety's shooting range in San Juan, Marpi.

Fortune Pacific Corp.'s proposed project site will be a 15,000-square-meter land on Chalan Kalabera Street owned by Juan C. Reyes.

Fortune Pacific's proposed project has no fixed structures but needs only clearing of vegetation at the site, which is zoned as rural.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board will hear Fortune Pacific's application for conditional use permit at a public hearing at 5pm today, Thursday.

In its application, Fortune

Pacific estimates the project to cost \$50,000.

Fortune Pacific Corp. has also applied for permits from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Fortune Pacific Corp. president Wang Lihang submitted the "conditional use" application before the Zoning Office. Richard Peng is listed as the contact person.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry yesterday, Peng said the company decided to select the area in San Juan because it is a safe place for paragliding.

Peng said the place is also far from the airport, where such activities are not allowed.

Peng said they are not only targeting Chinese tourists, but also Japanese, Koreans, Russians, and any tourists who are interested in paragliding.



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SAIPAN CARES FOR ANIMALS

Two years of caring for Saipan's animals

Dogs suffering from tick disease, worms, infections, mange, and malnutrition are brought back from the edge of death.

Cats who don't trust humans are transformed into wonderful lap cats.

Children learn proper care for their pets.

Hundreds of happy, healthy animals are adopted.

Two years ago, Saipan's animal welfare group, called Saipan Cares for Animals, was created by Jason Hudy with help from the Humane Society International and a group called Animal Balance.

Within these past two years, the group has had its ups and downs, but today continues to strive to improve the life of every animal on Saipan through sterilization, medication, and socialization.

"One of our biggest advances in the past two years has been the opening of the 'Saipan Cares for Animals Community Outreach Center' in As Gonno," said Beth Pliscou, president of SCA. "From this facility we've been able to adopt out dogs and cats, socialize and rehabilitate animals that were near death,

and provide basic, low-cost animal care for Saipan's residents and their pets."

"One of the aspects I'm most proud of is our adoptions," said Hudy, a volunteer with SCA. "When Saipan Cares was created, there was no adoption process on Saipan, and most animals that were abandoned by owners, or found on the road, were euthanized. Today, SCA has helped to adopt out over 500 animals, animals that have been given a second chance at life. And families have received wonderful socialized pets that brighten their days. It's a win-win for everyone!"

The group originally began by assisting the Saipan Mayor's Office with its animal program, and has since grown to the point where branching off on their own has meant being able to help more animals.

"Today, we offer basic medical care for Saipan's animals that is very affordable for all pet owners," said Pliscou. "We've been able to assist thousands of animals on our island to live a better quality of life with our services! We've even taken trips to Tinian to help the animals

there as well!"

The organization continues to grow and reach more of Saipan, said Hudy. "We've hosted school groups to educate them on the proper care for animals, so future generations will know how to take care of their pets. ... The number one thing we are currently in need of is volunteers to help. If any animal lovers on Saipan want to volunteer, we always need help to care for our bundles of joy."

The SCA Community Outreach Center offers medical care, and hosts up to 15 injured, ill, abused and/or neglected animals that they are rehabilitating and making well for adoption.

"I love seeing the turnaround in our animals," said Pliscou. "We have animals that come to us very scared, or worse, abused by humans. We have dogs come to us totally infested with ticks and barely able to walk. We have cats come to us who have been mistreated and have no reason to trust humans. And, while we can't save every animal, in so many cases we've seen miraculous changes in animals that go on to live



SAIPAN CARES FOR ANIMALS

You can visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com, or "Saipan Cares for Animals" on Facebook to learn more. Both sites have directions to the community outreach center in As Gonno.

great lives, and that's what keeps us going."

"So, here is what SCA can do for you, and what you can do for SCA," said Hudy. "First, if you are looking to adopt a wonderful, healthy new pet, please come visit us at the outreach center! Direc-

tions are on our website and Facebook page, or give us a call. Second, if your animals needs medical care, come by. We offer basic medical care at affordable prices! Third, if you feel so inclined to donate, monetary or goods donations are most needed and

welcomed. You can donate to our GoFundMe page on our website or Facebook page. And finally, if you are looking to help out Saipan's animals, we are in need of volunteers to love and care for our little ones. I promise you'll leave SCA feeling great about the help you provide!"

You can visit www.SaipanCaresforAnimals.com, or "Saipan Cares for Animals" on Facebook to learn more. Both sites have directions to the community outreach center in As Gonno.

Both sites also have a link to a "GoFundMe" page. Saipan Cares for Animals receives no government assistance or grants, and operates entirely out of the generosity of donations. If you'd like to donate to keep the group in existence, do so on the GoFundMe page.

If you'd like to volunteer, you can contact SCA on the website, Facebook fan page, or call Pliscou at 285-5448.

"In two years, SCA has made a difference in the quality of lives for animals on Saipan. This is your community animal clinic and rescue and only you, Saipan's residents, are keeping it up and running. We look forward to continuing to serve the animals and the community in the upcoming year," added Pliscou. **(PR)**



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Bank accepting grant applications for small businesses

Bank of Hawaii is now accepting applications for the *I Kīno-meti Para I Kumunidāt I Islā-ta/* Small Business Revitalization and Development Grant for projects that stimulate small business development and economic activity on Saipan.

Small business owners with a successful track record in business operation or management and who have not yet been a recipient of the grant

are invited to submit applications by Friday, Aug. 11, 2017. Grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded.

Bank of Hawaii established the grant program in 2012 to promote new businesses in the Western Pacific and to encourage existing small businesses to expand.

If not already completed, grant awardees are required to successfully complete one

of the following before Aug. 11, 2017:

■ CNMI Small Business Development Center small business training program.

■ Bank of Hawaii Smart Money small business financial education training.

Grant awardees are also expected to report back to the bank on how the grant has made a difference to their business and the community

by Friday, Dec. 1, 2017.

Application forms are available at Bank of Hawaii's Garapan branch or by contacting branch manager (Saipan) Rose Sumor at (670) 237-2983. Applications should be submitted to: Branch manager Rose Sumor, Bank of Hawaii, Springs Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan MP 96950 or PO Box 500566, Saipan MP 96950. (PR)

Storytellers' workshop begins next week

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is hosting a storytellers' workshop for all CNMI youth in high school and college, including incoming students. Facilitators for the workshop are poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner and photographer Daniel Lin.

Jetnil-Kijiner is a poet, writer, performance artist, and climate change activist from the Marshall Islands who was selected to address the opening ceremony of the 2014 Climate Change Summit at the United Nations headquarters in New York. She is the founder of *Jo-Jikum*, an environmental non-profit organization in the Marshall Islands, and recently published a book of poems, *Iep Jaltok: Poems from a Marshallese Daughter*.

Lin is on a life-long journey to discover what it truly means to be a citizen of the world. His love for travel and focus on photojournalism has led him on extensive visits to the Pacific Islands and Asia, working on issues pertaining to climate change, culture, and youth. Lin currently lives in Hawaii where he is the senior research and policy spe-

cialist for Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. He is a regular contributor to *National Geographic* and the Associated Press.

The workshop is set for July 24-27 at the Marianas High School library from 9am to 12pm. Its goals are to empower youth to learn and use media and storytelling as tools for discovering the value of place and adaptation in their places. Participants will learn how to promote local, regional, and global awareness about important issues in the CNMI through poems or written stories using various media platforms.

Seating is limited to 25 participants, so interested students are encouraged to register ahead of time. To register or for more information about the workshop, call Eulalia V. Arriola at 235-4785 or send an e-mail to esvillagomez@gmail.com.

The workshop is sponsored by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council through funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and in partnership with Marianas High School. It is free of charge. (PR)



Lin



Jetnil-Kijiner

Håfa Adai Pledge *familia* welcomes new members



Guam Visitors Bureau staff surround Catherine Bungabong, independent business consultant; Tony Muna Jr., GVB vice president; Han Sol Seo, New M.W. Corp. operations manager; and Francis Valencia, The Boka Box representative, during a Håfa Adai Pledge ceremony on Monday, July 17, 2017. The Håfa Adai Pledge program is a cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign.

GUAM VISITORS BUREAU

The Guam Visitors Bureau welcomed The Boka Box, New M.W. Corp., and independent business consultant Catherine Bungabong to the Håfa Adai Pledge program on Monday at GVB's office in Tumon.

The Boka Box is Guam's first nutritional food ser-

vice that offers paleo-based meal plans to help individuals establish a solid nutrition foundation.

New M.W. Corp. is a general contractor serving Guam for 28 years.

Bungabong is an independent business consultant in-

volved with Guam's tourism industry and nonprofit organizations.

The Håfa Adai Pledge program is a cornerstone of the Guam Visitors Bureau's local community branding campaign. Since its inception in 2009, the Håfa Adai Pledge

program has grown steadily both in numbers of participants as well as the content of individual pledges. To date, over 700 private businesses, government agencies, nonprofits and other organizations have joined the Håfa Adai Pledge program. (GVB)

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Power outages today, Saturday

There will be a power interruption today, July 20, 2017, from 9am to 1pm, at San Vicente's Isa Dr., and on Saturday, July 22, 2017, from 5:30am to 10:30am, in Dandan on Flame Tree Road.

Both power interruptions will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. line crew to replace six wooden power poles with concrete poles.

Areas to be affected by today's outage are (Kahida Pl., Laulau Bay Drive, Achon Ln., Railroad Dr., Sinagu Ln., Tininu Pl., Galak Dr., Makpong Pl., Pacific Heights Ln., Boya Pl., Galayan Pl., Mulberry Ln., Lantana Pl., Palai Way, Mapga Ln., Langit Ln., Berbena Dr., Pakko Ln., Golondrina Dr., and Nifen Ln.)

Saturday's power outage will affect Lower Dandan (Holiday Dr., Independence Loop, and Natibu Pl.) and partials of Flame Tree Road. The IF-15 water well may be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Video game trap: Some young men are too busy playing to work



A group of economists released a paper recently suggesting young men are working fewer hours because they are spending so much time playing video games. Video games might also help explain a study last month from Johns Hopkins University researchers who said today's 19-year-old is as sedentary as a 60-year-old.

Inactive lifestyles, obesity and the opioid epidemic have combined to end a streak of life expectancy increases. In 2015, the number dropped for the first time in two decades—from 78.9 to 78.8. Social media, phones, video games and TV are keeping people from being on their feet, from making friends and from being productive.

The economists found that American men 21 to 30 were working 203 fewer hours a year than the same age group did in 2000. Part of that difference is because gaming and social isolation prevent some men from even entering the workforce. Some men, researchers believe, limit the amount of time they work so they can play games.

All of this matters. Inactive lifestyles and poor diets are directly linked to increasing obesity rates, which correlate with the decline in life expectancy.

Choosing social isolation or gaming over a fulfilling job or friendship deprives a person of support systems that could help when dealing with an addiction. And decreased productivity and unemployment prevent the economy from reaching peak efficiency, thereby hurting others who are fully engaged in the workforce. Americans need to get back to moving their bodies.

(c)2017 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



What would Lincoln think of Donald Trump?

By **SIDNEY BLUMENTHAL**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Donald Trump has a sketchy relationship with Abraham Lincoln. "Great president," Trump said. "Most people don't even know he was a Republican, right?" Trump also conjectured that "had Andrew Jackson been a little later, you wouldn't have had the Civil War," though Jackson had died many years before.

But what would the 16th president have thought of the 45th? Beyond pure speculation, we can find clues in Lincoln's first formal speech, "The Perpetuation of Our Political Institutions," in which he criticized attacks on the free press and warned against a future demagogue who would threaten the fragile American experiment.

On Jan. 27, 1838, mounting the podium before the Springfield Lyceum for Young Men in Illinois, the 29-year-old Lincoln, a member of the Illinois Legislature, described the "mobocratic spirit."

Lincoln began by decrying a spate of recent crimes that reduced the rule of law to "the caprice of a mob," including the lynching of a black prisoner in St. Louis. "Having ever regarded Government as their deadliest bane, they make a jubilee of the suspension of its operations; and pray for nothing so much, as its total annihilation." He also condemned the "bands of hundreds and thousands" who "throw printing presses into rivers, shoot editors"—which everyone in the audience would have recognized as a reference to the Lovejoy case.

On Nov. 6, 1837, in Alton, Ill., Elijah P. Lovejoy, an antislavery editor, was murdered by a group of men who stormed his warehouse to destroy his printing press. Lovejoy had been driven out of St. Louis for publishing antislavery articles. Moving his base of operations across the Mississippi River, he soon joined in calling for the formation of the Illinois Anti-Slavery Society. Lovejoy's assassination made him the first martyr of the abolitionist movement. His killers were acquitted in a trial that reached its verdict eight days before Lincoln delivered his speech.

The overwhelming view in Illinois was that Lovejoy deserved his fate. Promoting antislavery opinion was deeply unpopular. In Washington, lawmakers upheld a gag rule that barred the presentation of antislavery petitions to Congress. Former President John Quincy Adams, now serving in the House of Representatives, stubbornly led the resistance. But Northern legislature after legislature passed resolutions in solidarity with Southern states

to affirm the gag rule. On March 3, 1837, Lincoln and only one other member of the Illinois House signed a dissenting statement declaring "that the institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy."

Lovejoy, according to Lincoln, did not bring about his own death. Contrary to conventional wisdom, he was wholly innocent, the victim of "the vicious." Those who "shoot editors" were not simply breaking the law, but also assailing the basic right of free speech—the very foundation of American government. The attack on Lovejoy, whether one agreed with his opinions or not, was an attempt "to subvert our national freedom."

Then Lincoln pointed to an even greater menace than rampaging mobs, "a probable case, highly dangerous." He warned against the emergence of a man driven to power by a fierce desire for "celebrity and fame" who "thirsts and burns for distinction." This demagogue "scorns to tread in the footsteps of any predecessor, however illustrious," and believing that "nothing left to be done in the way of building up, he would set boldly to the task of pulling down."

There is a contemporary figure who resembles that fame-hungry demagogue, one who tears down institutions and incites the mobocratic spirit, subverting the right to free expression and, with it, our national freedom. These Lincolnian terms describe our reality-TV-star-turned-president, who called the "FAKE NEWS media" the "enemy of the American people," and tweeted an altered video that showed him body-slaming a man with the CNN logo in place of his head.

But Trump would no more understand Lincoln's forewarning than he will accept responsibility for his incitement. Trump's sense of history is as limited as his self-control.

If we can deduce how Lincoln would perceive Trump, we can also surmise how he would advise Americans to handle him. This is what he said about the possible rise of an American demagogue: "And when such a one does, it will require the people to be united with each other, attached to the government and laws, and generally intelligent, to successfully frustrate his designs."

Sidney Blumenthal is the author of Wrestling With His Angel, The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, Volume II, 1849-1856. A Self-Made Man, The Political Life of Abraham Lincoln, Volume I, 1809-1849, describes Lincoln's Lyceum Address. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Payday loans and cash advances

THE CONSUMER CAUTION CORNER

By MICHAEL J. CYGANER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This week, the Office of the Attorney General's "Consumer Caution Corner" outlines the Federal Trade Commission's guidance on payday loans and cash advances. Payday loans or cash advance loans are loans made for a short time, often two weeks. These loans can be very expensive.

What should I do before I get a payday loan or a cash advance loan?

Before you get one of these loans, consider other ways to borrow money:

- Can I get a loan from a bank or credit union?
- Can I get more time to pay my bills by talking with creditors

or a credit counselor?

- Do I have any money saved that I can use?
- Can I borrow money from family or friends?
- Can I use a credit card instead?

How do I choose which way to borrow money?

Compare the costs, if you have more than one choice. For each choice, find out:

- What is the APR?
- What are the fees?
- How soon must I repay the money?
- What happens if I cannot repay?

Write the answers to these questions. Decide which choice is best for you.

I decided to get a payday loan. What should I do?

- Ask the lender to tell you how much it will cost in dollars.

- Ask the lender to tell you the APR.

- Borrow only what you can pay back with your next paycheck.

Each week, the OAG's Consumer Protection Education Program (a.k.a. "The Consumer Caution Corner") shares FTC and/or Federal Communications Commission publications that provide consumers and businesses with the "know-how" to identify and protect themselves from unfair trade practices and marketplace schemes.

If you would like to file a consumer complaint, please pick up a form at the OAG (on Capital Hill) or request one by email from consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org. After completing the consumer complaint, please submit it by email or in-person.

We cannot act as your private attorney. If you need legal assistance, we will recommend that you contact a private attorney or legal aid organization. We cannot give legal advice or act as your private attorney.

An ancestry test taught me about myself, but can it get my kid a free education?

It turns out I'm more complex than I thought.

There I was, believing that my red-gravy Italian-ness summed me up succinctly, the roaring stories of gesticulating relatives serving as sacred tribal doctrine that explained me to me.

But my wife bought me one of those learn-your-heritage kits and, *mama mia*, what a revelation.

Yes, my ancestors were Italian. But also Greek, European Jewish, Middle Eastern and from the Caucasus, a region that includes people from Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Armenia and Iran.

What I'm experiencing now is what Rutgers University sociologist Eviatar Zerubavel calls a "genealogical epiphany."

It's parlor-game fun to know this stuff. But does it matter or make a difference? I can't decide yet. I'm still figuring out this gift, holding it up to the light and seeing which way the sun shoots through.

My first question was whether this is real or, like astrology, a kind of tantalizing hokum.

"Absolutely, there is science to this," said Glenn Gerhard, chair of medical genetics and molecular biochemistry at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University. And, he added, for areas like Europe, where there is a large database of people's genetic backgrounds, "there is good data that's getting better."

Gerhard tried one of the ancestor kits himself. "I'm a geneti-

cist and needed to find out," he said.

The second thing that hit me was that I'm descended from Catholics, Jews and Muslims.

How will I get the holidays straight? And the fasting?

Then again, how important can any single religion be if I'm everything? The more religions I am, the less religious I feel.

It's odd the thoughts that pop into your head when you learn you aren't precisely who you thought you were. I immediately recalled a girl I had a crush on in high school who refused to date me because I wasn't Jewish.

How do you like me now, Jane?

Along with Jane, I now know I proudly share a background with Albert Einstein, Philip Roth and, of course, Scarlett Johansson. But with just 10 percent of my genes being Jewish, I can't lay claim to all eight crazy nights of Hanukkah. Maybe just a raucous afternoon.

As I tried to figure some commonality among these disparate cultures, the only thing I could come up with is that most of the people in them eat lamb. I still prefer steak pizzaiola.

Given that so many of my ancestors were a bellicose bunch—the Romans, the Greeks, the Persians—it's no wonder I get testy at the DMV.

When I listed our antecedents to my brother, the chromosomally closest human to me, he noted the Russian and Iranian in-

bombs. Our warplanes, ships, drones and cyber capabilities are the envy of all. Most importantly, the American experiment—one committed to democratic values and the rule of law—has allowed us to become the world's sole superpower.

In contrast, we have North Korea, a totalitarian state that consistently fails to meet the basic needs of its 23 million people. The United Nations World Food Program says 70 percent of the North's citizens did not have enough food to eat in 2016. An estimated 25 percent of the North's children are physically stunted. The country ranks 213 out of 230 countries in GDP per capita. The North does have a 1.2-million-man military; but an International Institute of Security Studies report found that the North's conventional forces rely on "increasingly obsolete equipment, with little evidence of widespread modernization." In other words, their equipment is old.

Who should be afraid of whom?

For all its idiosyncratic behavior, outlandish threats and actions, and gruesome human rights record, the North Korean government is not suicidal. It knows that, in a large-scale confrontation with South Korea and the U.S., the North Korean leadership and the country itself would cease to exist.

The U.S. must therefore maintain its policy of the strongest deterrence. At the same time, however, assuming the U.S. actually wants to solve this problem rather than simply contain it, we must offer more material "carrots" to the North—meaningful security assurances, a semblance of political legitimacy and access to the international economic system.

By ALFRED LUBRANO
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Alfred Lubrano is a Philadelphia Inquirer staff writer. Readers may write him at alubrano@phillynews.com.

fluences and joked: "You know, I always had a problem with democracy. Now I know why."

It occurred to me that DNA testing is something I could use to help get my 13-year-old daughter into college. Adopted from Guatemala, my daughter is Latina and Central American Indian—Mayan, the adoption lawyer said. Universities award scholarships to Native Americans, I was told.

But my daughter's papers list only her Latina side. So I asked her to take an ancestry test to prove her Indian heritage. The one I used requires that a person spit into a test tube for a saliva sample.

My daughter will not. Too icky or something.

This has led to my making odd demands of her: "Spit! I can't afford college."

As fascinating as my new genetic preoccupation is, I think it's brought me to a basic realization: Our experiences are more important than our chromosomes.

My daughter and I share not a drop of blood. But I love her more than baseball, or cannoli or myself.

And I don't need a DNA test to tell me that.

Why are we afraid of North Korea?

With North Korea's successful intercontinental missile test this month, Americans again woke up to breathless alarm over possible military strikes and the specter of a North Korean nuclear attack—a virtual repeat of the hype in April when it looked as if a sixth North Korean nuclear test was imminent.

Why are we so afraid of North Korea?

The media and policymakers like to remind us that North Korea produces one bomb's worth of nuclear material every eight weeks. By most accounts, if nothing changes, the regime will build a nuclear arsenal able to hit the U.S. mainland in the mid-2020s.

It's also perfectly true that, with a bad decision or two, the U.S. could stumble into a devastating conflict on the peninsula that would cost millions of lives, put U.S. troops in harm's way and might even spark a nuclear exchange.

That being said, we must put the situation into proper perspective. What has been lost amid the incessant punditry, news coverage and irresponsible headlines suggesting that North Korea can already hit California, is that deterrence on the Korean peninsula is alive and well. The balance of power, moreover, strongly favors the U.S.—not North Korea.

The U.S. is the most powerful nation in the world. Our military is second to none, outspending the next eight countries combined. Our fighting men and women are the best-trained, most technically advanced force in history. We have thousands of nuclear weapons and many more precision-guided conventional

By PHILIP W. YUN
Los Angeles Times



Philip W. Yun is executive director of Ploughshares Fund, a San Francisco security and peace foundation. He previously served as a senior advisor to two U.S. coordinators for North Korea at the Department of State. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

This more flexible approach would, in turn, assuage Chinese concerns about regime collapse in North Korea. Indeed, once convinced the U.S. had a political solution in mind, China might be more willing to wield much harsher "sticks"—truly crushing sanctions on food and energy, particularly oil and coal.

U.S. action cannot be driven by outdated policies, stereotypes and presidential tweets when overreaction in a high-stakes standoff could lead to catastrophic miscalculation. Above all, the U.S. must lead, and do so with confidence, not fear.

As former Secretary of Defense William Perry has said, "We must take North Korea as it is, not as we wish it to be." While this is often interpreted to mean we shouldn't expect the country to comply with international standards (it won't), it also means that we can't view North Korea as a super-villain.

North Korea is a desperately poor country led by a desperately misguided regime. The threat North Korea poses is serious, but not an imminent one to the U.S. homeland. So let's not make things worse by scaring ourselves and adding to the risk of another Korean War.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.

▲88° ▼77°

SATURDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

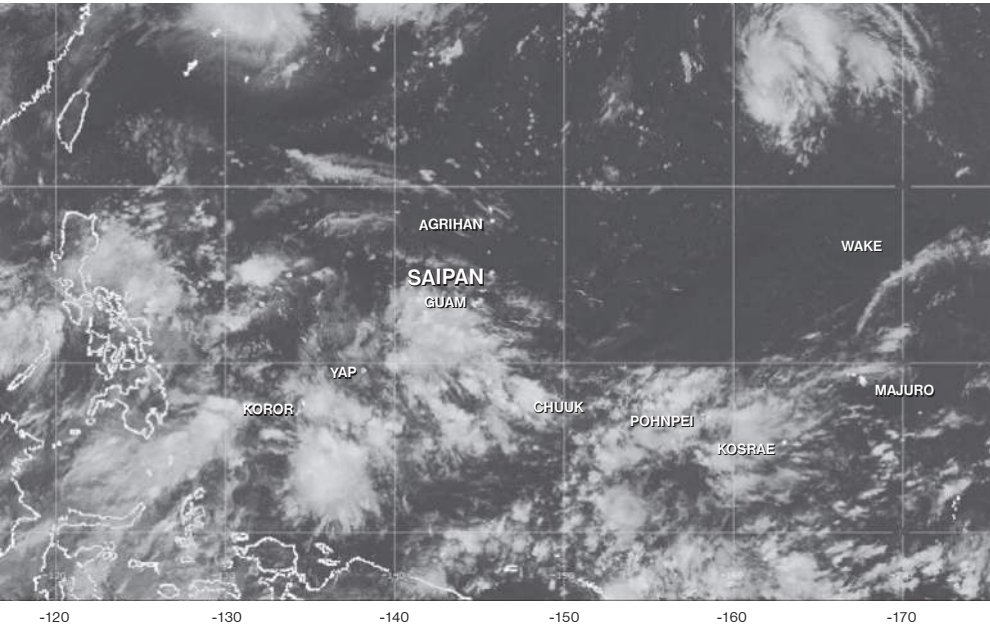
▲88° ▼78°

MONDAY

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:54 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Models show mid-level drying setting by Thursday morning, so have isolated thunderstorms only through tonight. Current showers are expected to decrease after sunrise, but models bring isolated showers and thunderstorms back in this afternoon. Thursday through Saturday looks fairly quiet with only isolated showers, but the models indicate the possibility of more moisture returning by Sunday or Monday. For now, have left partly cloudy with isolated showers until indications are more definite. Seas and winds will remain light the next few days, with a low risk of rip currents.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 50°			
Beijing	Thunderstorms	81° / 73°			
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°			
Honolulu	Windy	86° / 75°			
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 57°			
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 66°			
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°			
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°			
Miami	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	93° / 74°			
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°			
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°			
Busan	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°			
Rome	Sunny	91° / 66°			
Salem	Mostly Sunny	94° / 74°			
San Francisco	Sunny	62° / 52°			
Seoul	Thunderstorms	90° / 77°			
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°			
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	97° / 77°			

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:38 AM	HIGH TIDE		2.01
11:04 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.23
6:00 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.72
11:02 PM	LOW TIDE		1.10

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:56 AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:26 AM	3:34 PM	-
Friday	3:23 AM	4:36 PM	-
Saturday	4:23 AM	5:39 PM	-
Sunday	5:26 AM	6:38 PM	-
Monday	6:28 AM	7:33 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:10am	3:55pm	Daily
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
ZE582	4:45pm	8:35pm	Daily	LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1	JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4	JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily	DL298	10:20am	2:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6 via GUM	PR1571	9:20pm	3:40am+1	3, 7
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM	UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR1572	4:40am	6:45am	1, 4	UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM				
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM				
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	U042	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
U043	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM	U042	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM	U042	6:10pm	1:00am+1	3
				U042	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
				U042	6:40pm	2:00am+1	7
				UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

Business

'Let Obamacare fail,' Trump declares as GOP plan collapses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump declared Tuesday it's time to "let Obamacare fail" after the latest GOP health care plan crashed and burned in the Senate, a stunning failure for the president, Republican leader Mitch McConnell and a party that has vowed for years to abolish the law.

In a head-spinning series of developments, rank-and-file Republican senators turned on McConnell and Trump for the third time in a row, denying the votes to move forward with a plan for a straight-up repeal of "Obamacare." This time, it was three GOP women—Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia—who delivered the death blow.

All had been shut out of McConnell's initial all-male working group on health care.

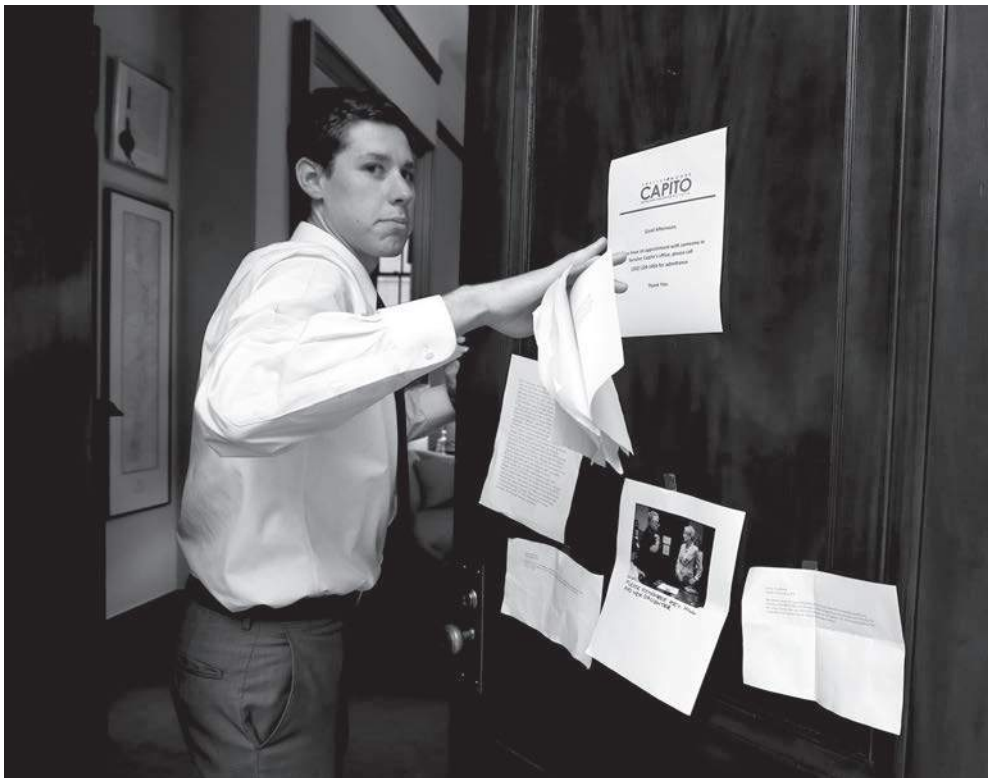
McConnell, who could afford to lose only two votes in

the narrowly divided Senate, had turned to the repeal-only bill after his earlier repeal-and-replace measure was rejected on Monday. That had followed the failure of an earlier version of the bill last month.

The successive defeats made clear that despite seven years of promises to repeal former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, Republicans apparently cannot deliver. Nonetheless, McConnell insisted he would move forward with a vote on his measure to repeal the law, effective in two years, with a promise to work—along with Democrats—to replace it in the meantime.

The vote to move ahead to the bill will take place early next week, McConnell announced late Tuesday. It appears doomed to fail, but GOP leaders want to put lawmakers on record on the issue and move on.

At the White House, Trump appeared to recognize defeat, at least for the mo-



A staffer for Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va. takes down leaflets left by a group of protestors at her Russell Senate Office Building office on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

ment, while insisting he bore none of the blame.

"I think we're probably in that position where we'll just let Obamacare fail," the president said. "We're not going to own it. I'm not going to own it. I can tell you that the Republicans are not going to own it. We'll let Obamacare fail and then the Democrats are going to come to us and they're going to say, 'How do we fix it?'"

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Tuesday night

that all GOP senators have been invited to the White House tomorrow for lunch to discuss the way forward on health care.

Despite the current law's problems, most health care experts do not believe it is at immediate risk of outright failure, and Democratic cooperation to adjust the law is far from assured.

Nor does it appear likely that Republicans can escape owning the problems with the law and the health care system overall,

now that they control the House, Senate and White House, partly on the strength of campaigning against the law.

"They seem to have this notion that they can be a majority party, and have control of the White House, and not be responsible for bringing down the health care system," said Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois. "It doesn't work that way."

Asked how he would justify the GOP's failure on health

care to voters, McConnell responded: "Well, we have a new Supreme Court justice"—suggesting inaction on health care would be forgiven because of that success along with some regulatory roll-backs.

As the day began Tuesday, McConnell was hunting for votes to open debate on a revived version of legislation Congress sent to Obama's desk in 2015 that would have repealed major portions of Obamacare, with a two-year delay built in. He had turned to that approach after getting stunned Monday night by defections by Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jerry Moran of Kansas on a repeal-and-replace bill.

Many Republicans support the repeal-only approach, and they questioned how senators who voted for the legislation two years ago could oppose it now.

"We're going to find out if there's hypocrisy in the United States Senate in the next few days I'm afraid," said Sen. David Perdue, R-Georgia.

But for others, the implications were too severe now that the bill could actually become law with a Republican president in the White House ready to sign it. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that more than 30 million people would lose insurance over a decade under the legislation.

House budget blueprint key to success of Trump tax agenda

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite opposition from Republican moderates and conservatives, House leaders are pressing ahead with a budget plan whose success is critical to the party's hopes to deliver on one of President Donald Trump's top priorities—a GOP-only effort to overhaul the tax code.

The importance of the measure has been magnified by the cratering in the Senate of the Trump-backed effort to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, leaving a rewrite of the tax code as the best chance for Trump to score a major legislative win this year. The measure would require about \$200 billion worth of cuts to benefit programs and other so-called

mandatory spending coupled with the tax plan.

The budget plan unveiled Tuesday is crucial because its passage would pave the way to pass a tax overhaul this fall without the fear of a filibuster by Senate Democrats.

But it also proposes trillions of dollars in cuts to the social safety net and other domestic programs and puts congressional Republicans at odds with Trump over cutting Medicare. It also would sharply boost military spending.

"In past years, the budget has only been a vision. But now, with the Republican Congress and a Republican White House, this budget is a plan for action," said Budget Committee Chair Diane Black, R-Tenn. "Now is our moment to

achieve real results."

Unclear, however, is whether GOP leaders can get the budget measure through the House. Conservatives want a larger package of spending cuts to accompany this fall's tax overhaul bill, while moderates are concerned cuts to programs such as food stamps could go too far.

"I just think that if you're dealing with too many mandatory cuts while you're dealing with tax reform you make tax reform that much harder to enact," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa.

Black announced a committee vote for Wednesday, but was less confident of a vote by the entire House next week; a delay seems likely because of the ongoing quarrel between

the GOP's factions.

The House GOP plan proposes to turn Medicare into a voucher-like program in which future retirees would receive a fixed benefit to purchase health insurance on the open market. Republicans have proposed the idea each year since taking back the House in 2011, but they've never tried to implement it—and that's not going to change now, even with a Republican as president.

"Republicans would destroy the Medicare guarantee for our seniors and inflict bone-deep cuts to Medicaid that would devastate veterans, seniors with long-term care needs, and rural communities," said Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lawsuit claims Uber discriminates against wheelchair riders

NEW YORK (AP)—A non-profit disability rights organization filed a class-action lawsuit against Uber, claiming the ride-hailing service discriminates against New York City riders with disabilities by not providing enough access to vehicles that can accommodate wheelchairs. "Having grown rapidly since it began operating in New York in 2011, Uber provides hundreds of thousands of rides a day in New York City, but for riders who need wheelchair-accessible vehicles, it provides vastly inferior service, or in many cases, no service at all," according to the lawsuit filed in New York State Supreme Court in Manhattan on Tuesday by Disability Rights Advocates. The lawsuit said that although Uber offers wheelchair-accessible vehicles through its UberWAV service, they account for fewer than 100 of the 58,000 Uber vehicles dispatched in the city. It said the special vehicles can be used by other riders and may be unavailable for use by disabled riders, who "face extended wait times, or

are still denied access to the service altogether."

US-China trade rifts resurface even after friendly summit

WASHINGTON (AP)—Cake and conversation, it seems, can go only so far to mend longstanding economic rifts between the United States and China. Three months after President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, shared chocolate cake at an amiable summit in Florida, tensions between the world's two biggest economies are flaring again. Just as officials of the two nations prepare to meet Wednesday in Washington, the Trump administration is considering slapping tariffs on steel imports, a step that risks igniting a trade war. For the United States, it's a perilous option to address a problem caused largely by China's overproduction of steel. And Trump is criticizing China again for failing to use its economic leverage to rein in its neighbor and ally, the nuclear rogue state North Korea. Could this week's U.S.-China Comprehensive Dialogue produce a meaningful breakthrough in economic relations?



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Nation

Trump had second conversation with Putin in Germany

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump had another, previously undisclosed conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit in Germany this month.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer and National Security Council spokesman Michael Anton confirmed that Trump and Putin spoke at a dinner for world leaders and their spouses at the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, Germany.

The conversation came hours after Trump and Putin's first official face-to-face meeting on July 7, which was originally scheduled to last just half an hour but stretched on for more than two. The two world leaders were also captured on video shaking hands and exchanging a few words after they arrived at the G-20 summit of industrialized and developing nations earlier that day.

Anton would not specify the duration of the conversation. But he said the discussion was casual and should not be characterized as a "meeting" or even a less formal, but official, "pull-aside."

"A conversation over dessert should not be characterized as a meeting," he said.

The dinner, hosted by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, was open only to world leaders and their spouses, as well as one translator per couple, according to a senior White House official who described the event on condition



AP
In this July 7, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Even a dinner arranged for top 20 leaders in Germany is made to look sinister!"

Trump and Putin's relationship has been under scrutiny since the election campaign, when Trump repeatedly praised Putin as a strong leader and publicly encouraged him to hack then-rival Hillary Clinton's emails. Trump aides have since said he was joking.

U.S. intelligence officials have concluded that the Russian government meddled in the 2016 election in order to help Trump. Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on their findings and dismissed investigations into potential collusion between his campaign and Moscow as a "witch hunt."

of anonymity despite the president's criticism of unnamed sources.

The official stressed that Trump spoke with many leaders over the course of the dinner and said he spoke briefly with Putin, who was seated next to first lady Melania Trump, as the event was concluding. Trump spoke with Putin using Russia's translator, since the American translator did not speak Russian.

But Ian Bremmer, who said

he spoke with two people who attended the dinner, said that Trump and Putin spoke for nearly an hour while sitting among the other world leaders and their spouses at the dinner. Bremmer is a foreign affairs columnist and the president of the Eurasia Group, a consulting firm.

Attendees described the meeting as startling, said Bremmer, who was told Trump was very animated as he spoke with Putin, often us-

ing his hands to gesture.

Trump defended the dinner in a pair of angry tweets late Tuesday that noted the dinner had been on his public schedule.

"Fake News story of secret dinner with Putin is 'sick.' All G 20 leaders, and spouses, were invited by the Chancellor of Germany. Press knew!" he wrote.

A few minutes later he added: "The Fake News is becoming more and more dishonest!"

Deaths at swimming hole raise questions about flood warnings

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, Ariz. (AP)—

The deaths of nine people who were swept away in a flash flood at a swimming hole in central Arizona have raised questions about whether the government should have done more to warn the public about the dangers of floodwaters in wilderness areas.

The nine people who died and a man who remains missing were swept away Saturday after a torrent of water from a thunderstorm upstream roared through the Tonto National Forest. Officials say members of an extended family who died in the flood had no warning about the approaching surge of water.

The storm dumped up to 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in an hour, prompting a flash flood warning from the National Weather Service. Though the service sent out a flash-flood warning over cellphone networks, service in the remote area is patchy at best. Unless they had a weather radio, the swimmers would have been unaware.

Crews, meanwhile, spent four hours Tuesday searching for 27-year-old Hector Miguel Garnica, whose wife, three young children and extended family members were killed in the flood. His family gathered at the mountain swimming hole about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northeast of Phoenix to cel-

brate his wife's birthday.

The search was suspended over concerns that thunderstorms moving through the area Tuesday would cause more flooding. It's scheduled to resume Wednesday.

Crews had hoped that Hector Garnica would still be alive. But Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management spokeswoman Tiffany Davila said crews who have searched for Garnica for three days now believe they are working a recovery effort.

Officials have said people headed to wilderness areas should check weather alerts ahead of time to determine whether it's safe. They note that it's hard to predict where rain will fall in the desert Southwest, and people should know that heavy downpours can cause flash flooding.

Even so, that hasn't stopped people from saying more should be done to protect the public from flash floods.

Steve Stevens, a volunteer firefighter with the nearby Water Wheel Fire and Medical District, said there needs to be a way for visitors to get flash flood alerts on their phones.

Stevens, who has lived in the area for 20 years, said the fire station and local church have extenders that provide cell service to the area around those two locations, but it needs to cover the whole forest.

Powerful opioid suspected in 10-year-old Miami boy's death

MIAMI (AP)—A 10-year-old boy from a drug-ridden Miami neighborhood apparently died of a fentanyl overdose last month, becoming one of Florida's littlest victims of the opioid crisis, authorities said Tuesday. But how he came into contact with the powerful painkiller is a mystery.

Fifth-grader Alton Banks died June 23 after a visit to the pool in the city's Overtown section. He began vomiting at home, was found unconscious that evening and was pronounced dead at a hospital. Preliminary toxicology tests showed he had fentanyl in his system, authorities said.

"We don't believe he got it at his home," Miami-Dade State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said. "It could be as simple as touching it. It could have been a towel at the pool."

She added: "We just don't know."

The case has underscored how frighteningly prevalent fentanyl has become—and how potent it is. Exposure to just tiny amounts can be devastating.

Investigators said Alton may have been exposed to the drug on his walk home in Overtown, a poor, high-crime neighborhood where Assistant Miami Fire Chief Pete Gomez said he has seen a spike in overdoses in the past year and where needles sometimes litter the streets.

"There is an epidemic," Gomez said. "Overtown seems to have the highest percentage of where these incidents are occurring."

The three-block walk between the pool and Alton's home took him down streets that appeared relatively clean Tuesday, but on the block in the other direction from his home, trash littered the pavement and empty lots. Homeless people slept in the shade of an Interstate 95 overpass.

Detectives are still trying to piece together the boy's final day. Rundle appealed to the public for information.

"This is of such great importance. We need to solve this case," she said. "I believe this may be the youngest victim of

this scourge in our community."

The boy's mother, Shantell Banks, was informed of the preliminary findings last week. A distraught Banks told The Miami Herald that her son was a "fun kid" who wanted to become an engineer and loved the NFL's Carolina Panthers, especially Cam Newton.

Jessie Davis, who lives in an apartment house next to the building where Alton lived, said her grandchildren, ages 8, 9 and 10, regularly make the same walk to the nearby park with a swimming pool. She said she initially thought the pool water made Alton sick and was shocked by news reports that he had been exposed to fentanyl.

"Where would a 10-year-old baby get something like that?" Davis said.

Thinking about her own grandchildren going to the pool, Davis said, "I'm going to tell them, 'Don't touch nothing.' I don't know whether they think it's candy, but somebody needs to tell these kids something."

The Florida Department of

Children and Families said it is conducting its own investigation, in addition to that of the police.

Fentanyl is a synthetic painkiller that has been used for decades to treat cancer patients and others in severe pain. But recently it has been front-and-center in the U.S. opioid abuse crisis.

Perhaps best known as the drug that killed pop star Prince, it is many times stronger than heroin. Dealers often mix it with heroin, a combination that has often proved lethal.

Fentanyl is so powerful that some police departments have warned officers not to even touch it. Last year, three police dogs in Broward County got sick after sniffing the drug during a federal raid, officials said.

Gomez said his crews wear long sleeves, coveralls, gloves and masks while handling fentanyl. And "you never want to start reaching into people's pockets," he said, explaining that crews often cut people's pockets open for fear of pricking themselves with needles.

Asia

AP INTERVIEW: Filipino rebel refuses to broker for militants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The leader of the Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group says Islamic State-linked militants wanted his group to broker their possible withdrawal from Marawi city during the major military offensive against them but he refused to intervene.

Al Haj Murad Ebrahim of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front told The Associated Press in an interview late Tuesday that intervening would have been difficult because President Rodrigo Duterte has declared his government would not negotiate with terrorists.

The nearly two months of insurrection in Marawi is the worst he has seen in his more than four decades as a rebel in the country's south, Murad said, adding the attackers are now wracked by infighting and have expressed through religious emissaries they are ready to fight to the death.

The violence underscores the urgency for the government and the Moro rebel group to implement a 2014 Muslim autonomy deal to help stop the rising tide of extremism, he said.

More than 550 people, including 413 militants, have been killed in Marawi since May 23, when hundreds of gunmen, waving Islamic



AP
Chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Al Haj Murad Ebrahim talks to The Associated Press in Makati city east of Manila, Philippines, late Tuesday, July 18, 2017.

State group-style black flags, stormed into the city center, occupied commercial buildings and villages and took hostages. Duterte ordered troops to crush the attackers and declared martial law in the south for 60 days, which he now wants to extend up to the end of the year to deal with the

worst crisis he has faced in his yearlong presidency.

Amid the intense fighting that has forced nearly 400,000 people to flee from their homes, Murad said his group met with the president and offered to help rescue hundreds of residents, who have been trapped and starving in their homes in the battle zones. Duterte welcomed the offer, he said, and the government and the rebels worked to establish "peace corridors" through which trapped residents were extricated to safety.

A group of Muslim ulamas, or religious scholars, managed to enter the conflict zone in

past weeks and urged some of the militant leaders to end the siege and withdraw from the beleaguered city.

"After a series of dialogue, they came up with a proposal, they said, 'we will leave but the MILF should intervene,'" Murad said of the militants' demand that was relayed by the ulamas to his rebel group.

"I said it'll be hard for us to intervene because the president is very clear in his statements that he will not negotiate with the terrorists," Murad told AP, adding he asked the religious leaders to convince the gunmen "to just withdraw so this will stop" without any mediation.

The gunmen chose to fight it out, he said. "What they said, if nobody will intervene, then we will die here," Murad said.

After weeks of battle setbacks, the militants have grown desperate, he said. One of the leaders, Abdullah Maute, had a deadly rift with another militant. "What happened was, he was able to kill their member and he was wounded," Murad said, citing information his rebels received.

Maute's brother, Omarkhayyam, had also been wounded in battle and is no longer seen on the ground, he said.

Murad's remarks echo earlier military statements that

Omarkhayyam Maute has been wounded early in the fighting and that the militants have been beset by infighting as the siege dragged on.

A militant leader, Isnilon Hapilon, "is no longer being seen but his whereabouts has not been confirmed," he said. Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has said in recent weeks that Hapilon, among the most-wanted terror suspects by the United States, may still be in Marawi, hiding in a mosque.

Murad's rebel group has a vast encampment in Butig town, near Marawi, and hundreds of its fighters have been ordered to stay in a designated zone to prevent them from being entangled in the ongoing clashes. Ceasefire monitors from the government, the rebel group and foreign peacekeepers have been stationed in Butig to prevent any problem, he said.

Murad traveled to Manila to witness government and rebel representatives submitting to Duterte a new draft legislation that aims to establish a more powerful Muslim autonomous region in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The autonomy deal would have been a major legacy of Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, but the legislation stalled in Congress in 2015 after some rebels from the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front became entangled in fighting that killed 44 police commandos during an anti-terrorism raid in the south. The massive police deaths sparked public outrage and prompted lawmakers to stall passage of the bill.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia bans Hizbut group that seeks global caliphate

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The Indonesian government on Wednesday banned Hizbut Tahrir, an organization that wants to establish a global caliphate, under a new presidential decree criticized as draconian by rights groups. Hizbut's legal status had been revoked to protect national unity, said Freddy Haris, a director-general at the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The decree signed last week by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo gives the government almost unfettered power to ban organizations deemed against the constitution and the official state ideology known as Pancasila, which enshrines democracy and social justice. Rights groups say the decree undermines the right to freedom of association and governments could easily abuse its power. But mainstream Muslim groups have supported it. Haris said Hizbut Tahrir Indonesia listed Pancasila as an ideology of the organization in its articles of association

"but in fact on the ground their activities were against Pancasila and the soul of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia."

Building in Pakistan collapses, killing at least 5 residents

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—A dilapidated, three-story building in a poorer neighborhood of Pakistan's port city of Karachi collapsed before dawn on Tuesday, killing at least five people and injuring 14, a rescue and senior police official said. Several hours into the day, rescuers were still working and pulling more bodies from under the rubble, according to Rizwan Edhi, a top official for Pakistan's largest private ambulance service, Edhi. "Rescuers are using heavy machinery with utmost care as we can still hear voices of people trapped in the rubble," he said. Earlier, senior police official Aran Kobra said the dead included a man and his son, who were sleeping when the building collapsed. He said up to two people were still believed to be trapped under the rubble.

China urges India withdrawal in standoff, stages drills

BEIJING (AP)—China renewed a call for India to immediately withdraw its troops from disputed territory high in the Himalayan mountains, following a report that Chinese forces recently held live firing drills in the region.

Foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said that Indian forces had to leave the area to avoid an "escalation of the situation."

"We have stated many times that we hope the Indian side will get a clear understanding of the situation (and) immediately take measures to withdraw the troops that illegally crossed the border back to the Indian side of the border," Lu said at a regular news briefing Tuesday.

Beijing and New Delhi have engaged in more than a month of saber-rattling as officials from both sides talk of

a potential clash even bloodier than their 1962 war that left thousands dead.

Lu's comments came after Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported late last week that an army brigade equipped with rocket launchers, heavy machine guns and mortars recently practiced a simulated live-firing assault on an enemy position in Tibet. The drills also involved tracking and targeting enemy aircraft, the report said.

The current standoff is in the southernmost part of Tibet in an area also claimed by Indian ally Bhutan, although the report did not say exactly when or where the drills took place.

The slow-motion crisis is expected to be discussed when Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval visits Beijing on July 27-28 to take part in a security forum under

the BRICS group of large developing nations that includes Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

However, with nationalist sentiments among the public running high in both nations, neither side is expected to back down before the bitter Himalayan winter arrives in a few months, according to experts.

China insists Indian troops withdraw before talks can take place to settle what has become the longest protracted standoff in recent years between nuclear-armed neighbors who share a 3,500-kilometer (2,174-mile) border, much of it contested.

The most recent dispute flared in June after Chinese teams began building a road onto the Doklam, or Donglang in Chinese, Plateau that is claimed by both China and Bhutan, which cooperates

closely with India on security matters.

Although China and Bhutan have been negotiating the precise border for decades without serious incident, the tiny Himalayan kingdom turned this time to help from New Delhi, which sent troops across the border from the northeastern state of Sikkim.

China retaliated by closing a nearby mountain pass that Indian pilgrims use to reach Mount Kailash, a sacred Hindu and Buddhist site in Tibet. China's foreign ministry has also presented to reporters historical documents that it says prove China's claims to the plateau.

Although the Doklam Plateau is not part of Indian territory, New Delhi has been particularly sensitive to Chinese building activity in a region with strategic significance.

World

Separatists proclaim a new state to replace all of Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP)—Separatists in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday proclaimed a new state that aspires to include not only the areas they control but also the rest of the country. But Russia, their chief backer, sought to play down the announcement, saying it was merely part of public discussion.

The surprise announcement in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk casts further doubt on the 2015 cease-fire deal that was supposed to stop fighting in Ukraine's industrial heartland and bring those areas back into Kiev's fold while granting them wide autonomy. Some rebels said they have no intention of joining the new state.

More than 10,000 people have died in fighting since Russia-backed rebels took control of parts of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions in April 2014 after Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. The rebels originally sought to join Russia but the Kremlin stopped short of annexing the area or publicizing its military support for the rebels.

Donetsk separatist leader Alexander Zakharchenko said



AP
In this Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014 file photo, rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko stands during a swearing in ceremony in Donetsk, Ukraine.

in comments broadcast on Russian television that rebels in Donetsk and Luhansk as well as representatives of other Ukrainian regions would form a state called Malorossiia.

Most of the areas which are currently part of Ukraine were

referred to as Malorossiia, or Little Russia, when they were part of the Russian Empire.

Zakharchenko said they are drawing up a constitution that would be put up to a popular vote.

"We believe that the Ukrai-

nian state as it was cannot be restored," Zakharchenko said in remarks carried by the Tass news agency. "We, representatives of the regions of the former Ukraine, excluding Crimea, proclaim the creation of a new state which is a suc-

cessor to Ukraine."

Although separatists in the east have some sympathizers in other Ukrainian regions, they have not attempted to capture territories there, nor do they have any political representation there.

France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia worked out an agreement in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, in 2015 which laid out a roadmap for ending the conflict between government troops and separatists. Under the deal, the rebels would return control of the territories they had captured to Kiev while Kiev would allow a local election there and grant wide autonomy to the region.

While the deal helped to reduce the intensity of fighting, none of the political components has been implemented.

Breaking several hours of silence that passed after the separatists' announcement Tuesday, Boris Gryzlov, Russia's envoy mediating the peace talks in Minsk, dismissed the idea as public discussion.

"This initiative does not fit with the Minsk process," Gryzlov told Russian news agencies. "I see it merely as an invitation for discussion. This announcement does not have entail any legal consequences."

Asked about the rebels' announcement Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, told reporters Tuesday evening the Kremlin had no comment.

While the separatists are believed to be guided by the Kremlin, they have made statements in the past that clearly caught Moscow off guard.

Yevgen Marchuk, Ukraine's envoy at the talks, said on the 112 television channel that the announcement, made one day before the next round of talks in Minsk, "could block the negotiations entirely."

In Luhansk, rebel leaders denied that they were part of the deal. Local news website Luhansk Information Center quoted rebel representative Vladimir Degtyarenko as saying they had not been informed of the plans and have "great doubts about the expediency of such a step."

Throughout the conflict, the rebel-controlled areas have been ruled by self-proclaimed authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk who call themselves the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic. Separatist leaders in Luhansk, unlike their counterparts in Donetsk, have tended to stay away from directly expressing intentions to join Russia.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Tuesday accused Russia of directing the rebels' hand in making the announcement and seeking to split Ukraine in pieces.

"You should understand that Zakharchenko and (rebel leader) Plotnitsky are not political actors," he said, dismissing them as "puppets" whose only job is to voice "the messages they receive from Russia."

Arabs urge Qatar to accept 6 principles to combat extremism

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Four Arab nations that cut ties with Qatar urged the tiny Gulf nation Tuesday to commit to six principles on combatting extremism and terrorism and negotiate a plan with specific measures to implement them—a step that could pave the way for an early resolution of the crisis.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain broke diplomatic relations with Qatar in early June largely over their allegations that it supports terrorist and extremist groups—a charge Qatar rejects. They initially made 13 demands, which Qatar also dismissed.

Saudi Arabia's U.N. Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi told a briefing for a group of U.N. correspondents that the four nations are now committed to the six principles agreed to by their foreign ministers at a meeting in Cairo on July 5, and hope Qatar will support them as well.

The principles include commitments to combat extremism and terrorism, prevent financing and safe havens for such groups, and suspend all acts of provocation and speeches inciting hatred or violence.

Al-Mouallimi said the four-nation quartet thinks it "should be easy for the Qatar-

is to accept" the six principles. He stressed that implementation and monitoring must be "essential components," and "there will be no compromise when it comes to principles."

But he said both sides can talk about details of "the tactics" and "the tools" to implement them—"and that's where we can have discussion and compromise."

The Saudi ambassador explained that the initial 13 points included some principles and some tools to achieve compliance.

Mixed in the 13 points were what Western nations might see as fair demands, such as cracking down on support for

extremists and curbing ties with Iran, and tougher-to-swallow calls to shut down the Al-Jazeera television network—one of Qatar's best-known brands—and kick out troops from NATO member Turkey, which has a base in Qatar.

Al-Mouallimi stressed that stopping incitement to violence is essential, but he said closing Al-Jazeera might not be necessary.

"If the only way to achieve that is by closing down Al-Jazeera, fine," he said. "If we can achieve that without closing down Al-Jazeera, that's also fine. The important thing is the objective and the principle involved."

Venezuela rejects Trump sanctions threat, reviews relations

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela rejected President Donald Trump's call to halt a rewriting of the constitution that would consolidate the power of its socialist government, which said Tuesday that it was reviewing its relations with the United States in response to Trump's threat of sanctions.

"No foreign government controls Venezuela," President Nicolas Maduro told a nationally televised meeting of his National Defense Council, an emergency body he convened in reaction

to Trump's critiques. "Here in Venezuela, Venezuelans give the orders, not Trump."

Trump threatened on Monday to take unspecified "economic actions" if Maduro goes ahead with a July 30 vote on a constituent assembly to retool the constitution. Maduro's socialist supporters want the assembly to grant him more power over the few institutions still outside the control of his ruling party.

Foreign Minister Samuel Moncada said on state television that the election of assem-

bly members will take place as planned and that Maduro has asked him to reconsider Venezuela's diplomatic relations with the U.S.

"The constitutional assembly is happening," Moncada said, adding that Venezuela is "conducting a deep review of relations with the U.S. government because we don't accept humiliation from anyone."

Trump administration officials told reporters Tuesday that they were considering a wide range of sanctions on Venezuela, including cuts in

oil imports.

Trump has imposed travel bans and has frozen the assets of high-ranking officials in recent weeks, but refrained from broad sanctions against the country that could deepen its economic crisis.

Venezuela exports an average of 700,000 barrels of oil a day to the U.S., about half its total exports. Because much of the other half serves as payment of debt owed to China, a total cut in exports to the U.S. would slash Venezuelan government income by 75 per-

cent, Angel Alvarado, a congress member and economist, told The Associated Press.

Venezuela's opposition called Monday for a 24-hour nationwide strike to pressure Maduro to drop his plans to rewrite the constitution. The opposition said that more than 7.5 million people voted against the constitutional assembly at unofficial ballot boxes set up nationwide and in expatriate communities Sunday.

While that number cannot be independently verified, it's roughly equivalent to the number of votes garnered by winning candidates in recent

Venezuelan elections, an indication that Venezuelans would vote down the constitutional assembly if asked in an official referendum.

Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Argentina, Colombia and the European Union have also come out against the effort.

The opposition said it would launch a plan it called "zero hour" on Wednesday that includes an agreement to form an alternate government and create 2,000 local committees that would function as street-level support for the opposition.

Environment

Trump's environmental rollbacks hitting major roadblocks

By EVAN HALPER
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—As President Donald Trump flouts international calls to act on climate change, his administration is finding the pressure at home tougher to ignore.

The limitations of Trump's power to reset U.S. climate policy have been on full display over the last few days in Washington. White House plans to scrap restrictions on the release of a potent greenhouse gas are getting stymied by the courts, by forceful public opposition and even by Republicans in Congress.

The administration's struggle to free oil and gas companies from Obama-era limits on how much methane they can release into the air reflects the challenge Trump faces in carrying out his "America first" energy policy. Signing executive orders and making speeches were the easy part. Pushing policies to fruition is proving more complicated.

The thicket of legal issues entangling the administration on methane comes as it is facing an onslaught on another environmental front. Its plans to roll back national monument protections — ordered by Trump himself — are about to enter a crucial stage, and the wind is hardly at the back of the White House as it does.

About 2.5 million Americans have submitted comments as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke prepares to announce which public lands would lose protections. A large sampling analyzed by the Center for Western Priorities found just 1 percent of the comments expressed support for the Trump plan.

The fight over methane — a gas that accelerates global warming at 25 times the rate of carbon — has also proved more fraught than the administration may have anticipated.

After three GOP senators defected from party leaders to vote down a bill that would have scrapped the methane rules on public land, the administration moved to go it alone. It used executive authority to put on hold the public land rule and an even further-reaching methane rule the Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled to enforce nationwide.

But the administration found itself stymied again last week, when a federal court ruled that the EPA didn't have the authority to delay enforcement by even 90 days.

By Monday, emboldened



activists were making a show of force at EPA headquarters in Washington, where scores of them appeared to testify against the agency's broader plan to shelve the methane rules for two years, which appeared unlikely given the court ruling. They vastly outnumbered oil and gas industry representatives at the hearing and presented an unflattering picture for the administration.

One mother from Texas showed an X-ray of an asthmatic child's lungs, which she said had been damaged by release of the gas. Another mother from Pennsylvania explained how her daughter carried around a personal air monitor that often goes off when she is at school, which is within half a mile of 22 wells. Religious leaders told EPA officials they should be ashamed.

"How can anyone with any moral sensibility possibly believe that knowingly doing harm to children when the same could be avoided is acceptable?" asked the Rev. Alison Cornish of the advocacy group Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light. "It would be unconscionable not to uphold this rule."

Reversing course on methane was not supposed to be so challenging for Trump. The rules at issue were completed late in the Obama administration and were pilloried by the oil and gas industry as an unnecessary nuisance. Republican leaders had left the impression that Congress would act fast to scrap the rules on public land, which were still subject to congressional re-

view when Trump took office.

"Even as U.S. oil and natural gas production has surged, methane emissions have declined significantly," Howard Feldman, senior director for regulatory and scientific affairs at the American Petroleum Institute, testified Monday. "The last thing we need are more duplicative and costly regulations."

But the fierce public opposition reflects how many Americans are affected by the rules during an era of booming natural gas production. The in-

tensity of it moved lawmakers to waver, and the administration found itself battling alone.

More than 200,000 Americans, nearly a quarter of them children, live within half a mile of the 18,000 oil and gas facilities subject to the rule, which requires that companies install equipment to trap the gas and turn it into electricity, according to a new study by FracTracker Alliance, which analyzes data for advocacy groups.

With the administration on the defensive following the

court ruling blocking the EPA from suspending the methane rules, attorneys general in California and New Mexico attacked Trump's methane rollback on another front. They filed suit Wednesday against the Department of Interior, saying the administration has no authority to delay enforcement of the separate methane rules on public land that Congress failed to rescind.

In California, there are 7,000 oil and gas wells on public land, producing about 14

TNS
President Trump's plans on climate policy are meeting resistance.

billion barrels of oil and 7 billion cubic feet of gas, according to the lawsuit, which charges the administration is depriving states of royalties they are entitled when energy companies capture and sell methane, as required by the new rule.

The suit notes that 95 percent of drilling on public land takes place in Kern County, home to four of the country's top-producing oil fields and a place suffering from severe air pollution, which the attorneys general argue would be eased by more aggressive containment of methane. But it also points to how imperiled California has become by climate change, noting the state's water supply is in decline, its beaches are eroding and its smog is increasing. The suit says the state is committed to addressing such issues under current climate law but that its aggressive effort is being undermined by Washington's refusal to act.

The administration's plans are also threatening to undermine state environmental laws in states where Republicans hold power. Colorado, Ohio and Wyoming have all passed laws requiring energy firms to contain more methane — and in all of those places, there are energy companies eager to see competitors across state lines subject to the same rules they are.

In Loving Memory of

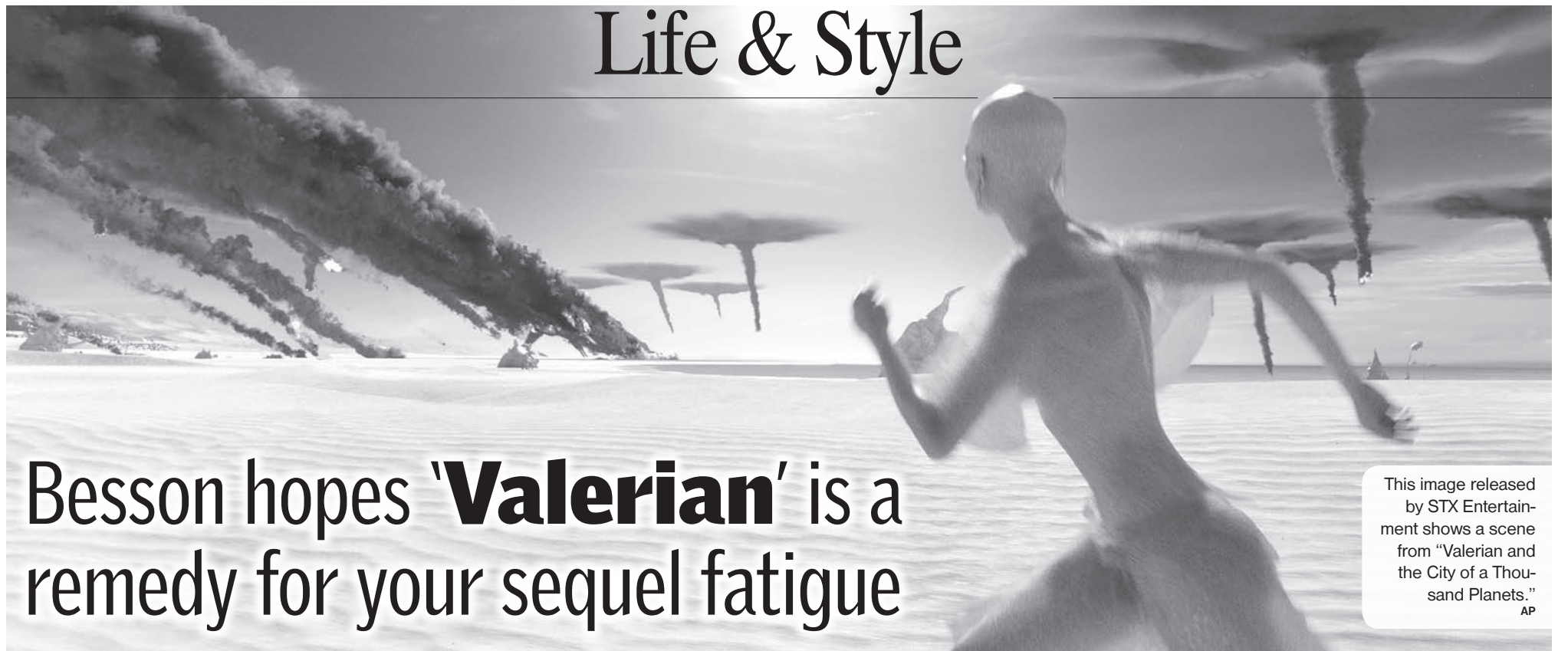
Danilo Paglinawan
May 08, 1964 - July 07, 2017

Ricky Quijano
December 07, 1969 - July 07, 2017

Amid Tapon
October 21, 1975 - July 07, 2017

*Memorial mass will be held on
Thursday, July 20, 2017 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6pm.
The general public is invited to attend the service.*

Life & Style



This image released by STX Entertainment shows a scene from "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets." AP

Besson hopes 'Valerian' is a remedy for your sequel fatigue

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—"I'm Valerian and she's Laureline," Luc Besson says with a smile, and gesturing to his producer and wife Virginie Besson-Silla. "She's the clever one."

Valerian and Laureline are the lead characters of Besson's sci-fi epic, "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets" which hits theaters Friday. They're names that most American audiences don't know, even though the French comic about two 28th century intergalactic cops that it's based on, "Valerian and Laureline," has been in existence for 60 years and influenced "Star Wars."

The filmmakers are seated in their shared office inside the Beverly Hills outpost of Besson's company EuropaCorp about a month before the "Valerian's" stateside debut. He's behind a massive rectangular wooden desk and she's across the table from him.

Besson-Silla has a desk too. It's off to the side, round, and much, much smaller.

"I prefer a round table! Everyone thinks it wasn't my choice," Besson-Silla says.

"She could have had a bigger one," he adds, seemingly

still befuddled by it.

It's almost another metaphor for their relationship—Besson as the larger-than-life public-facing personality who makes big statements and even bigger movies, and Besson-Silla as the one who orchestrates things in her own way just slightly out of the spotlight. She looks at her husband with bemusement, chiming in occasionally—often when he turns to her looking for the right English word.

They were colleagues before they were anything else. Now they have three children, ages 15, 14 and 11, and have found they actually enjoy being partners at the office and home.

"We were not stupid. There is a risk. We took our time and then very consciously we said, 'Let's try on one to see if it works,'" Besson says. "Actually it works 10 times better than I expected."

"Valerian" is by far the biggest film they've ever done—estimated to have a \$180 million price tag. Both are coming off the success of "Lucy" and the decades of goodwill Besson has built up in wild-eyed, crowd pleasing genre fare like "La Femme Nikita," "The Professional"

and "The Fifth Element."

He says "Valerian" is the movie of his life.

Though he was a lifetime fan of the series, it wasn't until he was working on "The Fifth Element" with "Valerian" illustrator Jean-Claude Mézières that he even considered taking it on.

"He's the one who said, 'Why don't you do Valerian?' I never thought of it before," Besson says.

Besson wouldn't acquire the rights for another 10 years. It wasn't until he visited James Cameron on the set of "Avatar" that he realized a film adaptation of "Valerian and Laureline" was even possible, technologically speaking.

And they've taken their time with it. Besson did a large number of character and world sketches himself. He created a bible with five-page descriptions of all the creatures. Both secured a historic collaboration between the two visual effects giants WETA and ILM to do the 2,700 VFX shots ("The Fifth Element" had around 200). And he found his perfect leads in two burgeoning stars: Cara Delevingne for Laureline and Dane DeHaan for Valerian.

"I definitely don't want

Schwarzenegger to play the part. I want someone human," Besson says of DeHaan.

They shot the film in France on soundstages that Besson helped design.

"We're very proud to be able to bring such a big production to the country and to bring work to hundreds of people. There's a real pride in that," says Besson-Silla. "And we have amazing facilities."

They finished shooting three days early, too which Besson says is, "Never heard of on this kind of film."

As far as the money goes, Besson isn't concerned. With international sales, he says the film is 90 percent covered.

"The risk is more psychological than the money. The risk is if we fail than you lose your reputation," Besson says. "The money risk is almost zero."

"People trust us, you know? We don't want to let them down," says Besson-Silla.

They have done it their own way from beginning to end, including giving the VFX artists freedom to experiment and going with a smaller North American distributor in STX Entertainment, whose biggest hit thus far has been the mid-

budget comedy "Bad Moms."

"Some of the studios were very interested by 'Valerian' but we were fearing that they were interested in controlling it—to let their big films first and treat 'Valerian' in a way like controlling the enemy. We feel better in the position of the opponent," Besson says, drawing on the advice of Peter Jackson, who chose New Line to distribute the "Lord of the Rings" films.

He's also a realist about possibilities and the fickleness of the market. "Valerian" will launch against the World War II actioner "Dunkirk" and the

comedy "Girls Trip."

"If there's a film a few weeks before us that is huge and everyone loves it, you don't exist. If you come after a desert of two months, then you're the savior. There are so many parameters. The good thing that we smell a little bit is there is a lassitude... lassitude?" Besson says.

Besson-Silla jumps in: "People are a little bored with sequels."

"There are so many sequels," continues Besson. "People are little tired of so many superheroes. At least we're fresh!"

Auction of Madonna's panties, love letter from Tupac halted

NEW YORK (AP)—An impending auction of pop star Madonna's personal items, including a love letter from her ex-boyfriend the late rapper Tupac Shakur, a pair of previously worn panties and a hairbrush containing her hair, was halted by a judge on Tuesday.

Manhattan state Supreme Court Judge Gerald Leibovitz ordered Gotta Have It! Collectibles to pull 22 items from its rock-and-roll-themed auction scheduled for Wednesday.

The Material Girl had earlier sought an emergency court order saying she was "shocked to learn" of the planned online auction of the Tupac letter and had no idea it was no longer in her possession.

"The fact that I have attained celebrity status as a result of success in my career does not obviate my right to maintain my privacy, including with regard to highly personal items," Madonna said in court papers. "I understand that my DNA could be extracted from a piece of my hair. It is outrageous and grossly offensive that my DNA could be auctioned for sale to the general public."

Court papers said the Tupac letter was expected to fetch up

to \$400,000. Tupac, one of the best-selling rappers of all time, dated Madonna in the early 1990s and died of injuries suffered in a Las Vegas drive-by shooting in 1996.

Madonna, behind such hit songs as "Like a Virgin" and "Vogue," has sold hundreds of millions of albums. Other Madonna items scheduled to be auctioned were private photographs taken at a bachelorette party at her Miami home, personal letters and cassette tapes of unreleased recordings.

Madonna's court papers name Darlene Lutz, a former friend, art consultant and "frequent overnight guest" in Madonna's home when she was "not in residence," as behind the sale of the property.

A spokesman for Lutz and the auction house said the allegations will be "vigorously challenged and refuted" in court.

"Madonna and her legal army have taken what we believe to be completely baseless and meritless action to temporarily halt the sale of Ms. Lutz's legal property," spokesman Pete Siegel told the New York Post. "We are confident that the Madonna memorabilia will be back."

Last duet: Kenny, Dolly announce final performance together

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Two of country music's biggest stars, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton, whose onstage chemistry spawned hit duets like "Islands in the Stream" and "Real Love," will be making their final performance together this year.

Rogers, who is retiring from touring, says his final performance with Parton will be part of an all-star farewell show to be held at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena on Oct. 25. The two have been performing together for more than 30 years since "Islands in the Stream," written by the Bee Gees, became a pop crossover platinum hit in 1983.

Other performers for the farewell show are Little Big Town, Flaming Lips, Idina Menzel, Elle King, Jamey Johnson and Alison Krauss, with more names to be announced. Rogers made the announcement Tuesday at a press conference in Nashville. Tickets for the show will go on sale July 21.

Rogers, 78, said it's been more than a decade since he performed with Parton for a CMT special.

"I think we owe it to her to let her go on with her career, but we owe it to me to do it one more time, and we're going to do that," Rogers said after the press conference.

In his 60-year career, Rogers has had several successful duet partners, including Dottie West, Kim Carnes, Sheena Easton and Linda Davis, but Parton's star power made their collaborations a tour de force.

"We can go three years without talking to each other and when we get together, it's like we were together yesterday," Rogers said. "We both feel that comfort."

"Performing with Kenny for the last time ever on October 25th is going to be emotional for both of us, but it's also going to be very special," Parton said in a statement. "Even though Kenny may be

retiring, as he fades from the stage, our love for each other will never fade away."

The actor, singer and photographer with hits like "The Gambler," "Lady" and "Lucille," announced in 2015 he would do a final farewell tour before retiring to spend more time with his family.

Rogers said he and Parton would definitely sing "Islands in the Stream," but beyond that, he wasn't sure yet.

"Whether we do something else, I don't know," Rogers said. "That would require a rehearsal and I don't know that Dolly or I, either one, are up for that."

'Game of Thrones' debut draws record 10.1 million viewers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Women dominate Westeros as never before, and it's the same with the "Game of Thrones" ratings.

The HBO drama's seventh-season premiere last weekend drew a record-setting 10.1 million viewers, according to Nielsen company figures released Tuesday.

That eclipsed previous top-rated "Game of Thrones" episodes, including the 8.11 million who watched the season five finale in 2015 and the 8 million who tuned in to that year's opener.

The numbers represent viewers who watched the episodes as they first aired. Many more join the party through streaming and DVR viewings.

As the new season opened, Cersei Lannister (Lena Headey) is atop the Iron Throne as queen of Westeros; Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) commands an extensive army, and Arya Stark (Maisie Williams) is exacting revenge for Red Wedding family deaths.

There was one eye-catching new man: Pop star Ed Sheeran had a cameo in the premiere.



The glittering ratings will have to make up for a lack of 2017 Emmy gold. The series returned outside the awards' eligibility window, so "Game of Thrones" was missing from the field of nominees announced last week after it dominated last year's Emmys.

Viewer fascination clearly is building as the fantasy saga

based on George R.R. Martin's books draws toward its end.

After this penultimate season of seven episodes, fewer than

AP
This file image released by HBO shows Lena Headey as Cersei Lannister in a scene from "Game of Thrones."

the usual 10, HBO has said there will be one more with an expected eight episodes.

That doesn't mean Martin's imagination will be absent from HBO. The channel previously announced that four scripts are in development for possible series, and Martin disclosed in May that a fifth project is in the mix—but how much of a "Game of Thrones" pedigree they'll have is unclear.

On his website, Martin said that each of the concepts under development is a prequel rather than a sequel, and may not even be set on the mythical continent of Westeros. Rather than the terms "spinoff" or "prequel," Martin said he prefers "successor show."

Ed Sheeran back on Twitter after brief disappearance

Ed Sheeran's disappearance from Twitter appears to be short-lived.

The singer's account is back online hours after it suddenly vanished. All of Sheeran's tweets since April 2015 have been removed, and the singer's more than 19 million followers have been reduced to a few thousand.

The moves follow Sheeran's cameo on the season premiere of "Game of Thrones" on Sunday night. Sheeran's appearance as a singing sol-

dier became a buzzed-about topic on social media.

The 26-year-old told Britain's Sun tabloid this month that he was no longer using his Twitter account aside from posting his Instagram pictures to it. He called Twitter a platform for "saying mean things" and was trying to "work out why people dislike me so much."

Sheeran's representatives didn't immediately return a request for comment Tuesday. (AP)

GAME OF THRONES *Shame Cersei, you lost your food supply*

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, PAUL WISEMAN, and JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the eagerly-awaited season 7 premiere of HBO's hit TV series, "Game of Thrones," Jon Snow and Cersei Lannister each learned some tough lessons about having scarce resources.

At least, that is what intrigued us as economics writers for The Associated Press. We're watching how economic issues affect the characters' schemes for power, and finding parallels with our own world. The latest episode of our audio show, the

"Wealth of Westeros," can be found here.

Snow, the brooding "King of the North" who faces an impending invasion by ice zombies, needs more dragonglass, which we call obsidian. It can kill the zombies, but he doesn't know where one of the biggest stockpiles is.

No one in Westeros, where "Game of Thrones" takes place, has needed massive stockpiles of dragonglass for thousands of years. So maybe that's why they lost track of one of the biggest veins, which lies under a castle named "Dragonstone."

Only in the season 7 premiere did Snow's sidekick, Samwell Tarly, figure this out.

Now Snow may have to travel more than a thousand miles to find his precious glass.

Husbanding resources to bolster national security is an important consideration in the modern-day United States as well. Just as dragonglass is crucial to Westerosi security, the Trump administration has been considering whether national security is a sufficient reason to slap tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. The metals are used in tanks, armored vehicles, and fighter jets, so some officials argue that restricting imports is critical to U.S. security.

But the Trump administration is doing so out of concerns that excess production

by China hurts U.S. steel companies—that is, there's too much steel, not too little.

Cersei Lannister, meanwhile, who snatched the Iron Throne at the end of season six after a massive bombing she orchestrated, is running low on an even more basic resource: Food for the men and horses in her army.

Several leading members of the Tyrell family were killed in the blast, which not surprisingly has turned the Tyrells against Cersei and her brother, Jaime Lannister. The Tyrells control the Reach, essentially the bread basket of Westeros, which means the Lannisters are likely to lose their principal source of grain and meat.

"We can't win a war if we can't feed our men and our horses," Jaime says.

Mistress seeking solace still mourns years after man's death

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what to do. I was having an affair with the most wonderful (married) man. I'm sure that he and I were the only ones who knew. He passed away unexpectedly a few years ago. I still go to the place where we met and hung out together. In my mind, I see him walking in and speaking his last words to me.

How do I mourn for him without giving it away? He was cremated, so there's no grave to visit. I end up in tears when I visit "our" place. I need all the advice you have to offer.

NEEDS HELP IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR NEEDS HELP: Please accept my sympathy for your clearly heartfelt loss. Ordinarily I'd suggest you join a grief support group, but I'm afraid if you do, you might run into his widow if you live in the same area.

It might help you to visit the place you met less often. Surely there are less painful places you can go to quietly reflect on your relationship. You might also consider discussing your feelings with a therapist or a trusted, nonjudgmental friend, because keeping these feelings bottled up is not healthy.

DEAR ABBY: There is a nice couple we know who make their own wine. They give us a couple of bottles a year and ask us to return the empties, which we are happy to do.

We love good wine of all kinds. In years past, we have appreciated their wine gifts, although, to be honest, they have been of marginal quality. I usually end up using it for cooking.

We just opened their last gift, Abby, and it is so awful I won't use it even in cooking. My husband and I are now having a disagreement: He says, "Dump it and return the bottle with a thank-you." I say, "Return the leftover wine (minus a 1/4 glass), and say how much we appreciate the thought, but that it just wasn't the flavor we drink." I just don't want them to waste their wine on us and give us any more, as they work hard to make it. Please advise.

NOT A LIAR IN COLORADO

DEAR NOT A LIAR: It might be kinder to return the empty bottle with a note thanking them and asking them to please not send you more because you are trying to cut back on your alcohol consumption. It's the truth. The alcohol you're trying to cut back on is theirs.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter "Maria's" quinceanera is next year. We invited her half-siblings to come. But her father's current wife, "Elena," refuses to allow it because Elena is a Jehovah's Witness. Maria will be heartbroken that they won't be there. Is there anything I can do to persuade Elena to let them

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

come, or would it be overstepping my place?

PROUD MAMA IN KENTUCKY

DEAR PROUD MAMA: If your daughter's half-siblings are being raised as Jehovah's Witnesses, it would be against their religious beliefs to attend her quinceanera. While I don't think it would be overstepping to talk with your ex and his wife and ask if their girls can come, do not be surprised or take it personally if the answer is still no.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



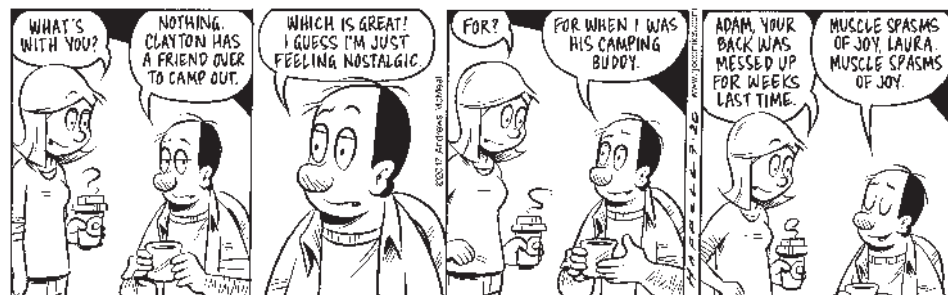
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moolah
5 Baseball execs
8 Wild guess
12 Sandwich cookie
13 Marseilles monarch
14 Sharpen
15 Nevada city
16 Charged bit
17 Apple product
18 Table tennis need
20 Seniors' org.
22 Pale emerald shade
26 Sigmund or Anna
29 Exist
30 Actress Joanne
31 Rich soil
32 Italian article
33 Equitable
34 Small batteries

DOWN

1 Business abbr.
2 Region
3 Transmit
4 Gangster
5 "Peer Gynt"
6 Cattle call?
7 "My Way" singer
8 Bake eggs
9 Freshened, as a drink
10 Year in Cancún
11 Nap site
19 Cover
21 Bio stat
23 Asian capital
24 Gaelic
25 Crazy
26 Banner
27 Bellow
28 Property restriction
32 Set free
33 Note
35 Env. contents
36 Greek consonant
38 "Old MacDonald"
39 Specter
42 June 6, 1944
43 The Emerald Isle
44 Tree home
45 To and —
46 PC linking system
48 Stickum

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 29; Judy Greer, 42; Josh Holloway, 48; Carlos Santana, 70.

Happy Birthday: You cannot please everyone, but you can do what you feel is most beneficial for you as well as the people you care about. Making changes at home that will add to your enjoyment are favored, but putting a little cash away for safe-keeping will also be necessary. Maintain a balance between what you want and what you should do. Your numbers are 3, 11, 17, 23, 29, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take part in events or activities that you can do with a partner or that will help you meet new people. An educational pursuit, self-improvement course or learning through experience are all favored. Romance is in the stars. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Refuse to let what others do influence you. Emotional pleas for help will not be justified. Get the facts before you offer to help someone who is using you for your skills, experiences or hard-earned cash. Firm action will be required. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make a promise to do and be your best, and renew a commitment to someone you love. Personal changes will lead to greater opportunity and a better home environment. Do whatever it takes to make romance, family and children a priority. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your involvement will make a difference. Sign up for a cause you believe in or voice your opinion regarding situations that will affect your community. Your contribution will put

you in a good position when change needs to be made. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An opportunity is within your reach. Discuss your plans with people you trust and believe in. Offering your suggestions will help you become an intricate part of the solution. Plan to share your success and to spend time with someone you love. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mixing business with pleasure will lead to trouble. Avoid getting trapped in a situation that could leave you taking on responsibilities you don't want. Concentrate on the ideas and pursuits that make you feel accomplished. Romantic problems can be expected. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your added discipline should be put to good use. Strive to make personal improvements that will help you get ahead. A partnership with someone special will take a favorable turn. Express your ideas and feelings openly. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Money matters are best dealt with conservatively. A practical approach to investments or how you spend your money will make a difference to the way others perceive you. Generosity will attract others, not popularity. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on partnerships, communication and getting ahead professionally. An opportunity to gain additional skills or information conducive to getting ahead will be featured. Celebrate with someone you love. Romance is highlighted and will improve your personal life. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Learn as you go, but don't lead someone to believe you know more than you do or can do something you can't. Taking on too much or making changes based on someone you think you can count on will not turn out well. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A gift, prize or opportunity will come your way from an unexpected source. Share your good fortune with someone you love. Do something that will make your life less stressful. Romance or family fun will improve your personal life. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Problems at work or at home will surface if you don't communicate honestly. Self-deception will stand in your way. It's important to see your relationships with others for what they truly are. Don't mislead or be misled. ★★

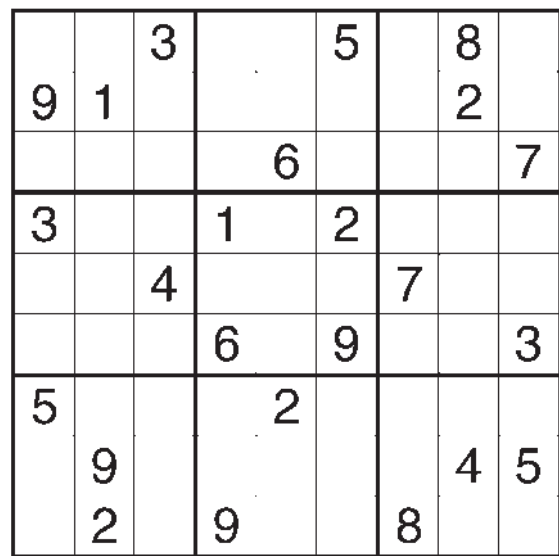
Birthday Baby: You are playful, entertaining and intelligent. You are responsible and helpful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

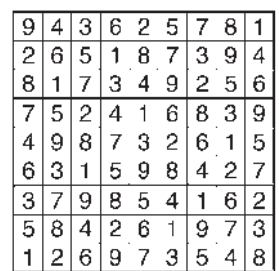


Difficulty Level ★★

7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

7/20

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

H.G. WELLS REMEMBERED

Solution: 12 letters

J O S E P H E R B E R T I M E
N S N N A I R O T S I H I N A
O E I C M H C T E K S N O S N
V I B A Y T S E W I A O P P T
E R B T E V I A L N B P I S H
L O O H C S R B N I I L Y A O
E T R E A D U A O K L S R R N
L S E R I P J O B I E M N T H
I N T I L A P I H E M N T H
H E I N N T O P F Y A N T A I
W V R E I L E I T R E B O U N
N E W M O W O R L D A L P N A
A S I G M A C H I N E N N T M
E S Y R A M L E B A S I K E U
M E G R O E G N I T A B E D H

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7/20

Amy, Anna Jane, Anthony, Bertie, Biology, Bio Optimism, Boon, Catherine, Debating, Draw, Frank, George, Haunted, Henley House, Herbert, Historian, Humanity, Isabel Mary, Joseph, Kent, Kipps, Machine, Meanwhile, Novel, Phillip, Pottery, Publish, Read, Robbins, Sarah, School, Seven Stories, Sketch, Time, West, World, Writer

Yesterday's Answer: Camp David

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 02, 2017TIME 11:00 A.M.

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Kershaw pitches 7 scoreless innings, Dodgers edge Chicago



CHICAGO
(AP)—Clayton Kershaw

pitched seven scoreless innings for his major league-leading 15th victory as the Los Angeles Dodgers edged the Chicago White Sox 1-0 Tuesday night for their 10th straight win.

Kershaw (15-2) made his first start since the All-Star break, scattering seven hits and a walk to post his 11th win in a row.

The Dodgers, with the best record in baseball at 65-29, have won 30 of 34. This is the second 10-game winning streak of the season for the NL West leaders.

Relievers Pedro Baez and Kenley Jansen closed it out. Jansen survived a deep fly by Matt Davidson to record his 24th save in 24 chances.

Chris Taylor had four hits and scored on rookie Cody Bellinger's single in the first inning off Miguel Gonzalez (4-9).

Nationals 4, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Bryce Harper went 4 for 4 with a homer, and he tripled and scored on Ryan Zimmerman's tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning of Washington's sixth straight victory.

Harper and Mike Trout traded first-inning homers, but Harper won the superstar duel with another spectacular offensive game in his 24-for-51 July. He barely missed hitting for the cycle when he was out by a few millimeters at second while trying to stretch a single in the third inning.

Trout went 1 for 4 with an RBI groundout in the ninth as the Angels rallied against new Washington reliever Sean Doolittle, who got a hairy save.

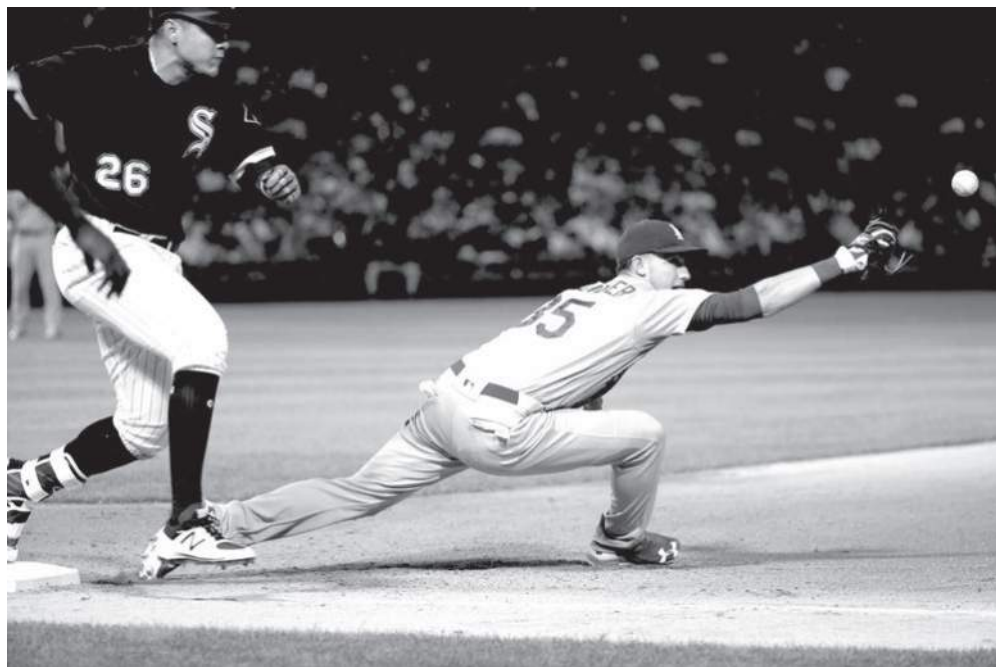
Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 4, 15 innings

In Boston, Hanley Ramirez hit drive out of Fenway Park in the 15th inning, giving Boston the victory in a rain-delayed game that ended at 1:09 a.m. Wednesday.

Ramirez connected for his 15th homer with one out off Mike Bolsinger (0-3), sending a drive over the left-field wall against the Blue Jays' eighth pitcher. Hector Velazquez (2-1), Boston's fifth pitcher, got the win.

The start was held up for more than an hour by thunderstorms, and both teams scored in the 11th to keep it going. The game itself took 4 hours, 59 minutes.

The Red Sox haven't gotten a lot of rest lately. They lost in 16 innings to the Yankees on Saturday, then split a day-night doubleheader



Chicago White Sox's Avisail Garcia, left, is safe at first after Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman Cody Bellinger was unable to handle a throw from Corey Seager during the sixth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, July 18, 2017, in Chicago.

with New York on Sunday. Boston lost to Toronto 4-3 on Monday night — albeit in just nine innings.

Cubs 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Willson Contreras hit a three-run homer, John Lackey earned his first win in a month and Chicago won its fifth straight game.

Rain delayed the start of the game for 2 hours, 30 minutes.

The defending World Series champion Cubs moved three games over .500 for the first time since winning at Miami on June 6. Chicago is 2½ games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Lackey (6-9) came off the disabled list to allow one run, five hits and two walks in five innings. He struck out one.

Sean Newcomb (1-5) lost his third straight start.

Pirates 4, Brewers 3

In Pittsburgh, Francisco Cervelli and Josh Harrison homered during a sixth-inning rally and streaking Pittsburgh welcomed outfielder Starling Marte back with a victory over Milwaukee.

Marte went 1 for 3 in his return from an 80-game suspension for violating the performance-enhancing drug policy. He also walked in the sixth, coming around to score on Harrison's 11th home run of the season that tied the game. David Freese put the Pirates ahead to stay with an RBI single off reliever Oliver Drake (3-3) later in the inning.

Ivan Nova (10-6) survived six innings to get the win. Felipe Rivero worked out of a two-on, one-out jam in the ninth for his eighth save. Pittsburgh won its third straight and pulled within five games of the first-place Brewers in the crowded NL Central.

Yankees 6, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Bartolo Colon faltered in the fifth inning after a decent start by the burly 44-year-old, whose Minnesota debut ended with a two-run double by Gary Sanchez that sent New York on its way to a victory.

Making his 514th major league start and joining his 10th team, Colon allowed eight hits and four runs with no walks and three strikeouts. He left to a standing ovation with no outs in the fateful fifth, despite the lackluster box score line in the end.

Aaron Judge added an RBI single and Didi Gregorius hit a two-run home run off Ryan Pressly in the fifth after Colon was removed.

Miguel Sano homered and Brian Dozier hit an RBI triple for the Twins, but they left 12 men on base.

The sputtering New York bullpen stepped up with 5 1/3 scoreless innings in relief of starter Luis Cessa, with Aroldis Chapman pitching a scoreless ninth for his 10th save. Chasen Shreve (3-1) picked up the win.

Diamondbacks 11, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Chris Herrmann capped a six-run fifth inning with a two-run homer, and Arizona slugged its way past Cincinnati, shortly after trading for slugger J.D. Martinez.

Rey Fuentes added a pinch-hit, three-run shot in the seventh, All-Star outfielder Jake Lamb had a two-run triple and Arizona ended a five-game skid by tying a season high with nine extra-base hits — one from each spot in the order. The Diamondbacks had four doubles in the fifth, helping overcome Zack Cozart's 10th homer of the season.

Arizona acquired Martinez from the Detroit Tigers in exchange for minor leaguers Dawel Lugo, Sergio Alcantara

and Jose King.

Cincinnati is 0-5 since the All-Star break, and opponents have reached double figures in runs in three of the games.

Amid muggy conditions and a 90-degree first-pitch temperature, Robbie Ray (9-4) lasted six innings for Arizona. Reds starter Sal Romano (1-2), recalled from Triple-A Louisville earlier Tuesday to make his third career start, failed to retire a batter in the fifth.

Orioles 12, Rangers 1

In Baltimore, Chris Davis homered in a six-run first inning, added a grand slam in the fourth and finished with a career-high six RBIs to help Baltimore breeze past Texas.

It was the 19th career multihomer game for Davis, making his fifth start since coming off the disabled list with an oblique strain. Baltimore's cleanup hitter hadn't gone deep since June 10 and has 16 home runs after hitting 38 last season.

The Orioles scored six runs against Tyson Ross (2-2) before making an out, and that was enough to send Baltimore to its second straight win over Texas following a three-game sweep by the Chicago Cubs.

Dylan Bundy (9-8) allowed one run and four hits in six innings to earn his first victory since June 24.

Astros 6, Mariners 2

In Houston, Evan Gattis homered twice to back up a solid start by Brad Peacock and help Houston over Seattle.

Gattis hit solo shots in the second and sixth innings off Sam Gaviglio (3-5) for the eighth multihomer game of his career.

Peacock (8-1) allowed three hits and one run while fanning nine in seven innings to tie the longest start of his career and earn his fifth straight win.

Luke Gregerson got the last four outs for his first save.

Jose Altuve had three hits and drove in a run for the AL West-leading Astros, and Marwin Gonzalez added a hit in his first game at shortstop since All-Star Carlos Correa was placed on the disabled list with a torn thumb ligament on Tuesday.

Tigers 9, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Nicholas Castellanos homered twice and drove in five runs, and Detroit scored five times in the second inning and cruised from there past Kansas City.

After trading slugger J.D. Martinez to Arizona for a package of prospects before the game, the Tigers proved they didn't need him in the lineup—at least for one night—to win their fourth straight game.

Castellanos also tripled to finish a double shy of the cycle. Victor Martinez drove in a pair of runs, and the Tigers, who began selling ahead of the July 31 trade deadline, still managed to give fill-in starter Matt Boyd (3-5) plenty of support in his return from the minors.

He outperformed Travis Wood (1-3), who allowed six runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Phillies 5, Marlins 2

In Miami, Maikel Franco had three hits, including a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, to help lift Philadelphia over Miami.

National League home run leader Giancarlo Stanton hit his 29th for the Marlins, who have lost four of five.

Franco's homer to left field off Dustin McGowan (5-1) was his 14th of the season and it broke a 2-all tie. Nick Williams added a two-run homer in the ninth to cap the scoring.

Cameron Perkins drove in two runs for the Phillies and Pat Neshek (3-2) pitched a scoreless seventh for the victory.

Hector Neris pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save in 12 opportunities.

Cardinals 5, Mets 0

In New York, Michael Wacha threw a three-hitter for his first career shutout, Matt Carpenter had four hits, and St. Louis beat New York.

Wacha (7-3) has won his last four starts. He struck out eight and walked one in his 99th career start.

The 26-year-old right-hander, who was ineffective last season, had not won four straight starts since the 2013 playoffs when he helped lead St. Louis to the World Series.

Wacha and the Cardinals capitalized on a shoddy Mets defense that let down starter Rafael Montero (1-6) with three errors. Montero allowed four runs, two earned, in six innings. New York has lost three straight and eight of 11.

Giants 2, Indians 1, 10 innings

In San Francisco, Eduardo Nunez hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning and San Francisco snapped a three-game losing streak.

Pinch-hitter Conor Gillaspie started the winning rally with a leadoff double against Cody Allen (0-5) to celebrate his 30th birthday. Denard Span then reached on a bunt single that sent pinch-runner Kelby Tomlinson to third.

That set the stage for Nunez, who grounded a single to right through a drawn-in infield to give the struggling Giants a rare win.

Sam Dyson (1-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win.

Rays 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Adeiny Hechavarria and Shane Peterson hit consecutive two-out RBI singles off closer Santiago Casilla in the ninth inning and Tampa Bay rallied to beat Oakland.

Steven Souza Jr. hit his second home run in two games while Logan Morrison walked and scored, helping the Rays to their fifth win in six games against the A's.

Casilla (2-4) opened the ninth by retiring Evan Longoria on a grounder and getting Morrison to strike out swinging. Wilson Ramos then singled and pinch-runner Mallex Smith took second on a wild pitch. After Smith stole third, Casilla walked light-hitting Brad Miller before Hechavarria singled to right to drive in the tying run.

Peterson, in his second stint with the Rays this season, followed with his game-winning hit.

Rockies 9, Padres 7

In Denver, Carlos Gonzalez lined a two-run double for his first extra-base hit in nearly a month, Gerardo Parra reached base five times and Colorado beat San Diego.

Mark Reynolds added a three-run homer in the first for the Rockies, who have won three in a row. It was also win No. 1,000 for Colorado at Coors Field.

Antonio Senzatela (10-3) regrouped from an erratic start to allow four runs, three earned, over five innings. His 10 wins are the most among rookies in the majors this season.

Yankees get Frazier, Robertson, Kahnle from White Sox



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

The New York Yankees made an early push for playoff run Tuesday night, acquiring infielder Todd Frazier and relievers David Robertson and Tommy Kahnle from the Chicago White Sox for reliever Tyler Clippard and three prospects.

The Yankees currently hold the second AL wild-card spot. They're close to the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox.

"It should tell them, 'Hey, we're in this,' and we need to continue to play and play hard and play better than we've done," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said after a 6-3 victory in Minnesota. "But it should be a pick-me-up in there in a sense, like, 'Hey, there's a lot of people who believe in this club.'"

As the July 31 nonwaiver trade deadline nears, the last-place White Sox made their second big trade in a week. Last Thursday, they sent ace Jose Quintana to the cross-town Cubs for four minor leaguers.

Along with Clippard, the White Sox got left-handed pitcher Ian Clarkin and outfielders Blake Rutherford and Tito Polo. They also announced top prospect Yoan Moncada would be called up for Wednesday's game against the Dodgers.

"Over the last few weeks we spent a considerable amount of time surveying the market for each of these players individually and decided the more prudent path to acquiring more talent similar to what we have over the last several months, the best path to acquiring the most potential impact talent, was to bundle these players together," White Sox general manager Rick Hahn said.

Frazier was a two-time All-Star with Cincinnati, but he's in a down year. He could play first base, a position the Yankees have struggled to stabilize all season, or remain at third base and move Chase Headley from one corner to the other.

The 31-year-old Frazier, who grew up in New Jersey as a Yankees fan, was pulled from the starting lineup shortly before the White Sox hosted the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday night. He spent the early part of the game in the dugout talking with Robertson.

Frazier is hitting .207 with 16 home runs and 44 RBIs. Last year, he set career highs with 40 homers and 98 RBIs. He is eligible for free agency after this season.

"It has been fun in Chicago, but I'm also excited to see what's in store for me in New York," Frazier said. "It's



pretty cool. It is kind of surreal right now because it all happened at once. You hear the rumors. It could have been a different team here and there. It's the Yankees, so I'm pretty excited."

With the Yankees playing the Twins on Wednesday afternoon, it was uncertain whether the new arrivals would make it in time for the game. What's certain, though, is that Clippard won't be wearing pin-

stripes anymore.

Drafted by the Yankees in 2003 and reacquired in a deadline trade last summer with Arizona, Clippard was 1-5 with a 4.95 ERA in 40 games. The 32-year-old right-hander hit a rough patch in mid-June that lasted into the All-Star break.

This is the fourth time he's been traded in less than three seasons.

"From a lifestyle standpoint,

it's getting kind of frustrating," Clippard said. "And from a team standpoint, I love these guys. I love this organization. We're playing well, and we're in the thick of things. To leave is gut-wrenching for me. But it is what it is, and there's nothing as players that we can do about it."

He'll be replaced by the righty Robertson, who's eagerly returning to his original team. The 32-year-old is 4-2

with a 2.70 ERA, successful on 13 of 14 save chances. He broke with the Yankees in 2008 and had 39 saves in 2014, before becoming a free agent and signing a four-year contract with the White Sox.

Though All-Star setup man Dellin Betances has struggled lately, adding Robertson and Kahnle to the mix with right-hander Adam Warren as bridges to ace closer Aroldis Chapman ought to be a big boost

AP
Chicago White Sox third baseman Todd Frazier watches his team during the ninth inning a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, in Chicago.

down the stretch for a team with a thin rotation.

Kahnle, a 27-year-old righty, was 1-3 with a 2.50 ERA in 37 games, covering 36 innings. He's struck out 60 and walked only seven.

"You're talking about a lot of hard throwers. Guys with strikeouts. A guy needs a day off, really, anyone can move into a spot," Girardi said.

The 20-year-old Rutherford was hitting .281 with 30 RBIs and 25 stolen bases at Class A Charleston to make the South Atlantic League All-Star team. He was a first-round draft pick last year.

Clarkin, a 22-year-old lefty, was 4-4 with a 2.61 ERA as a starter at Class A Tampa. The 22-year-old Polo was hitting a combined .307 with 22 steals at Tampa and Double-A Trenton.

Moncada, a 22-year-old infielder, was acquired from the Red Sox for ace Chris Sale in the offseason and is hitting .282 with 12 homers, 36 RBIs and 17 stolen bases at Triple-A Charlotte. Boston spent \$63 million—including a record \$31.5 million bonus—to sign Moncada in 2015 after he left Cuba. He was recently named the top prospect in the game by Baseball America.

Diamondbacks acquire All-Star OF JD Martinez from Tigers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—J.D. Martinez had been the subject of trade speculation for weeks, and it reached such a crescendo Monday night that even his mom texted to ask if Detroit's star outfielder had been dealt when he left a game in Kansas City with a sore back.

Turns out she was only off by a day.

The Arizona Diamondbacks acquired Martinez for a trio of prospects on Tuesday, hoping to solidify a trouble spot in the outfield with a sorely needed right-handed bat for a run at the playoffs.

"I don't think he was surprised," Tigers general manager Al Avila said. "I think he was hoping it didn't happen, quite frankly. I didn't want it to happen. I wanted to be out here in first place. I think it was hard for him because, like he said, this is his home. This is where he became J.D. Martinez."

Martinez, who is making \$11.75 million this year and can become a free agent after the season, acknowledged he would likely be traded

with the Tigers sliding from contention. The 29-year-old former All-Star is hitting .305 with 16 homers and 39 RBIs, making him one of the premier right-handed bats on the market.

"You knew it was going to happen. You don't really know how you're going to feel. It doesn't hit you until they tell you," he said. "It's definitely tough. I love this organization. I love the fans. I love everything in Detroit. That's home for me. I've always said that."

But as the Diamondbacks try to hold down the top spot in the NL wild-card race, their desire to make a playoff push led them to Martinez, who happens to provide exactly what they needed.

"We're excited to add a middle-of-the-order corner outfielder to our lineup," said Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen, adding that he might not be done dealing ahead of the July 31 deadline.

Avila also said more trades are possible. Tigers closer Justin Wilson has been drawing plenty of attention, and

the club is hoping to shed payroll as it begins to rebuild.

Martinez spent three mid-dling seasons in Houston before signing as a free agent with Detroit, where he became one of the top power hitters in the game. He hit 38 homers and drove in 102 runs in 2015 and hit 22 homers in 120 games last season.

More important for Arizona has been his success against left-handed pitching.

The Diamondbacks are next-to-last in the majors with a .213 average against lefties, and top hitters Jake Lamb and David Peralta bat left-handed and have struggled against them. Those problems have been made even worse by a groin injury to outfielder Yasmany Tomas, who is not expected back anytime soon.

"We're excited. He's very capable," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said after Arizona's 11-2 victory over the Reds. "He's a special guy with a lot of confidence at the plate."

Martinez is expected to join the Diamondbacks Wednes-

day, sliding into Tomas' spot in left field.

"It's going to be weird—a new clubhouse, new players," Martinez said. "They've got a great team over there. They've been good for a reason. I'm just hoping to go over there and hop on their train and just do what I can to help them keep doing what they've been doing."

The trade was nearly completed Monday night, when Martinez left late in the Tigers' game against the Kansas City Royals. At nearly the same time, top Nationals prospect Victor Robles was removed from his game at Class-A Potomac, sending social media ablaze amid speculation that the two teams agreed to a trade.

Martinez wound up having a sore back. Robles was pulled for a baserunning blunder.

But those details only came to light after Martinez was inundated with text messages from friends and family - "Mom texted," he said with a slight smile - asking where he had been traded.

"The timing was really, really bad," Avila said. "Here we were yesterday coming close to a deal and he comes out of a game. That was really awkward."

Detroit received Double-A third baseman Dawel Lugo, switch-hitting infield prospect Sergio Alcantara and shortstop Jose King in the deal Tuesday. Lugo, a sterling defensive third baseman with a solid bat, is regarded as the Diamondbacks' No. 2 overall prospect. Avila said he wanted to bolster the Tigers' farm system with position prospects and jumped at the chance to add three infielders.

As for Martinez, the Tigers hope that one day he'll return to Detroit.

Martinez said the feeling is mutual.

"Me and Al go way back. He's like family to me, close to family as you can get in baseball. I know it was hard for him," he said. "I'm not mad about it. ... Next year and the offseason, you never know what's going to happen in this game."

Jerry Jones: Cowboys still exploring latest Elliott incident

FRISCO, Texas (AP)—Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday the team is still gathering details over Ezekiel Elliott's involvement in an altercation at a Dallas bar, the latest off-field incident for the star running back.

Elliott, who was already facing a potential suspension over the NFL's investigation of a year-old domestic case, was involved in a dispute Sunday night that led to a man getting punched in the nose and being taken to a hospital. Dallas police said the 30-year-old man didn't know who punched him, and the report does not mention Elliott. Dallas police also are investigating the incident.

Jones said he didn't want to speculate about a possible suspension. An NFL spokesman said the league is looking into the latest incident "to understand the facts." One of Elliott's representatives didn't return a message seeking comment.

Authorities in Columbus, Ohio, declined to prosecute the former Ohio State star over a domestic dispute with his ex-girlfriend before Elliott's first training camp with the Cowboys last year. But the NFL's investigation continued, and the league hasn't cleared Elliott.

Elliott also drew unwanted attention last season when he visited a legal marijuana shop before a preseason game in Seattle. Last spring, he pulled down a woman's shirt during a St. Patrick's Day parade.



In this Jan. 15, 2017, file photo, Dallas Cowboys' Ezekiel Elliott (21) walks off the field after a 34-31 loss to the Green Bay Packers in an NFL divisional playoff football game, in Arlington, Texas.

MICRONESIAN

From Page 28

which the BSI Aces won.

Rogolifoi said there will be changes in the original roster, as majority of the players will not be able to make it to Guam in November due to school and work commitments. The SBL official added that the selection process for the new lineup will be made later this month and they are hoping to tap the services of the players that will compete in the league's U25 tournament.

The CNMI will have one team for now, but SBL is still considering having one more (possible a youth squad) if other countries will also have multiple entries. Kosrae and Palau will join the CNMI and Guam in this year's MBC. Last year, a second team made up of youth players played in the MBC as a guest squad.

Rogolifoi also said that Guam's hosting of the MBC will make the competition more interesting, as the CNMI's long-time rival is raring to avenge its loss to the Commonwealth during the inaugural staging of the

tournament last year.

Guam led the CNMI, 13-2, after four complete innings of the finale and was still on top, 14-9, at the bottom of the ninth inning when the latter made the mother of all comebacks and eked out an epic 15-14 victory in extra innings.

U25 meeting July 26, Masters July 27

Meanwhile, teams interested in joining SBL's U25 league are requested to attend an organization meeting on July 26 at the conference room of the Gilvert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Entry fees, uniforms, ground rules, equipment, and other related matters will be discussed at the 5:30pm meeting. SBL is looking to open the league early next month.

The Masters Baseball League will also open in August and there will be a meeting for participating squads on July 27 at the same venue and time. Waiver forms will also be distributed at these meetings.

For more information, contact league director Rogolifoi or secretary Marlena Castro at 234-6672.

PACIFIC

From Page 28

Kong defeated Iran last Tuesday, 3-0, and will challenge Pacific Oceania today. The top finisher in Pool B will join the winners in Pools A, C, and D to the semifinals, while the last two teams left standing will battle for the spot in the elite Group I.

Pool D has four countries in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, while Pool C is made up of Pakistan, Malaysia, and Singapore. New Zealand, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan are in Pool A.

Meanwhile, in the 2017 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III being held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Pacific Oceania also won its first assignment

after edging Syria, 2-1.

The CNMI's Colin Sinclair handed Pacific Oceania one of its two victories in the singles event after sweeping Kareem Al Allaf, 6-4, 6-0. Heve Kelley of Tahiti outlasted Yacoub Makzoume in the other singles match, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2. Pacific Oceania dropped the doubles match when Makzoume and Majdi Salim downed the Cook Island's Brett Baudinet and Vanuatu's Aymeric Mara, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3.

Pacific Oceania is in Pool A of the tournament, joining Sri Lanka and Jordan. Pool B has Lebanon, Malaysia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Turkmenistan. The finalists in the competition will be promoted to Group II, while the last two finishers will be relegated to Group IV.

The 21-year-old Elliott, who led the NFL in rushing as a rookie and helped the Cowboys to the top seed in the NFC playoffs with a 13-3 record, can get suspended without any convictions.

"Because of his style, per-

sonality, (he's) like a rock star wherever he goes in terms of attention," Jones said. "Certainly Zeke is evolving and being subject to needing to learn how to deal with the media and social media the way it is today."

Jones said he had discussed Elliott's latest incident with the running back but declined to provide details. Elliott said during the offseason program that he was going out less while understanding more the scrutiny he faces. But now

NBA BRIEFS

Wardrobe change: No home, road uniforms as NBA goes to Nike

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA teams are making a wardrobe change, with the traditional home and road uniforms going back in the closet. The league said Tuesday it is eliminating the old apparel designations starting with the 2017-18 season, when Nike becomes the official outfitter. Instead, there will be four primary uniforms for each team. The host team will pick which of its uniforms will be worn for each game and the visitors will select one of the contrasting ones from their collection. Previously, white uniforms were the de-

fault for home teams. The first two editions will debut at the start of the season. The "Association" is formerly the home white uniform and the "Icon" is the previous road jersey, featuring the team's primary color. The other two primary uniforms will be revealed in the coming months. Also, eight teams will have a "Classic" uniform available in the fall that they can wear at their discretion. Nike, which is replacing Adidas, says its uniforms are the NBA's lightest ever and absorb sweat faster, with changes to the neck, back shoulder and armhole to enhance agility. They were tested by members of

last summer's gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic basketball team.

NBA changes some rules, with hopes of making games speedier

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The NBA is trying to make games go a little more quickly. The league's Board of Governors has unanimously approved some changes that will potentially eliminate four time-outs per game, help speed up the final minutes of games and emphasize a timely resumption of play after half-time. The changes all go into effect starting this coming

he's had another incident.

"Like all of us, we do good some days and don't do good the others," Jones said. "That's not to be confused with tolerating bad behavior or illegal behavior. That's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about just learning that your every move will be scrutinized and how in this day and time it will be looked from many vantage points."

Elliott was a star before the Cowboys drafted him fourth overall last year, having led Ohio State the first championship in the four-team playoff. He ran for an Ohio State bowl-record 246 yards and four touchdowns in the title game on his future home field in the NFL.

PHAN

From Page 28

before the event to put down the technical manuals and just know how you deal with the issues that arise, and who you would escalate them to. It's more about the network of people than the actual run sheets."

"We need to demonstrate the benefits of volunteering and maximize these for those that contribute. Volunteers are getting training and getting experience and this is great for the organizing committee, but it must also be beneficial for the volunteers as well," added Mann, emphasizing the need to provide opportunities for development to volunteers, such as the academy.

Besides the roles of volunteers, the academy also discussed anti-doping and the management of global events. After the theoretical

and practical sessions, participants were given group project tasks, which they presented to a panel that included Matytsin, sports officials and industry experts. Their tasks focused on how to develop the university sport movement through the International Day of University Sport (IDUS)—a FISU initiative that has been endorsed by UNESCO.

From the pools, five were awarded internships at the Taipei 2017 Summer Universiade, while five more earned a spot in a weeklong business immersion course at the EF Executive Language Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Phan was grateful for the opportunity to take part in the academy and meet a lot of people.

"Besides the seminar itself, I personally thought that being able to interact and get to know so many different kinds of people from different coun-

tries was the best thing about this experience. Many of them are very accomplished and have already done a lot of things to help others through the volunteering organizations they work in; some of them are also presidents and general secretaries of these organizations," the NMIFA staff said.

"As for how the seminar would be of use, I believe organization and preparation are essential and what I learned from this experience was the importance of communication and understanding and how these aspects should be the backbone in driving everything. At NMIFA, our association is slowly trying to build up the sport of soccer on our island and I have seen a progressive change. New and brighter ideas are coming in and they're not just staying as ideas, they're actually being put into action," she added.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	53	42	.558	—
Tampa Bay	51	44	.537	2
New York	48	44	.522	3½
Baltimore	44	49	.473	8
Toronto	43	50	.462	9

Central Division				
Cleveland	48	44	.522	—
Minnesota	47	46	.505	1½
Kansas City	45	47	.489	3
Detroit	43	49	.467	5
Chicago	38	53	.418	9½

West Division				
Houston	63	31	.670	—
Seattle	47	48	.495	16½
Texas	45	48	.484	17½
Los Angeles	46	50	.479	18
Oakland	42	52	.447	21

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Washington	57	36	.613	—
Atlanta	45	47	.489	11½
Miami	42	50	.457	14½
New York	41	50	.451	15
Philadelphia	31	61	.337	25½

Central Division				
Milwaukee	52	44	.542	—
Chicago	48	45	.516	2½
St. Louis	46	47	.495	4½
Pittsburgh	46	48	.489	5
Cincinnati	39	54	.419	11½

West Division				
Los Angeles	65	29	.691	—
Arizona	54	39	.581	10½
Colorado	55	41	.573	11
San Diego	40	53	.430	24½
San Francisco	36	59	.379	29½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Organizers and volunteers team up in measuring the catch of *Aquaholics* during the 33rd Saipan International Fishing Tournament held over the weekend. The marlin later tipped the scales at 344.50 lbs, handing *Aquaholics* the top honors in the billfish category.



A *My Lady Gora* crewmember poses with the pair of skipjack they got during Day 1 of the tournament.



A *No Dogs Allowed* crewmember stands next to the wahoo they caught.



A *St. James'* angler shows the skipjack and wahoo they caught last Saturday.



A *San Juan* angler with one of the two marlins they caught during the tournament. *San Juan* won in the total weight (231.05lbs) category.



Past Time anglers show the two wahoos they reeled in last Saturday.



Kershaw pitches
7 scoreless
innings, Dodgers
edge Chicago

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Yankees get Frazier,
Robertson, Kahnle
from White Sox

PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pacific Oceania wins opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Oceania prevailed in its debut in the 2017 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II and 2017 Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group III.

In the Fed Cup, Pacific Oceania secured the early win in its opening match against Iran after sweeping the two singles yesterday at the Dushanbe Central Stadium in Tajikistan. Pacific Oceania's Fed Cup team is made up of the CNMI's Carol Lee, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers, Papua New Guinea's Abigail Tere-Apisah, and New Caledonia's Mayka Zima.

Carruthers gave Pacific Oceania its first triumph after sweeping Yasmin Mansouri in the opening singles match, 6-4, 6-2. In the second singles play, Tere-Apisah sealed the deal for the team after a similar straight sets victory over Sara Amiri, 6-3, 6-0.



In the lone doubles match, Lee teamed up with Zima and they dueling Ghazal Pakbaten and Sadag Sadegh-vaziri. The Iranian pair went on to draw first blood with a 6-2 triumph in the opening set, but was denied the sweep when Lee and Zima recovered quickly with a 6-3 win in the second. Lee and Zima led at 2-0 in the second set and never looked back. The deciding third set was being played at press time with the Pacific Oceania duo on top, 1-0.

Pacific Oceania and Iran are with Hong Kong in Pool B of the tournament. Hong

See **PACIFIC** on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI junior player Carol Lee, left, joins her Pacific Oceania teammates for a group photo during a training session for the 2017 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone Group II in Tajikistan last weekend.

Micronesian Baseball Classic moved to Guam



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion CNMI will head to Guam instead of Palau for the 2nd Annual Micronesian Baseball Classic.

Saipan Baseball League official Tony Rogolifoi, who is coordinating the Commonwealth's participation to MBC, told *Saipan Tribune* in a telephone interview yesterday that Palau pulled out from hosting the MBC due to the renovation at the Asahi Ballfield in

Koror. Rogolifoi added that repair works at the baseball field will not be done in time for the proposed scheduled of the tournament (October).

"We have discussions with Bob Steffy of Baseball Confederation of Oceania and Guam decided to step in and host the MBC. Bob and other officials of Guam baseball will just need to wait for the Parks and Recreation's permission to prepare the field for the tournament," Rogolifoi said.

With the announcement of the new host country, the date

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Juan Iguel gets ready to swing during their title game against Guam in the Inaugural Micronesian Baseball Classic last year at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

of the competition has been moved to November. The tournament was originally scheduled last June, but was pushed to October to give Palau more time to prepare.

A month before the supposed opening of MBC, the CNMI announced its 19-player roster for the tournament. The list includes Henry Lizama Jr., Ben Jones Jr., Lamar Iguel, Anthony Tenorio, Tyrone Omar, Joe Palacios, Giovanni Mira, Nathan Guerrero, Manny Cabrera, M.J. Sakisat, Richard Atalig, Jr., Virgil Secharmidal, Angel Palacios, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Jesus Iguel, Jesse Brel, Ian Norita, and Jobe Reyes, who all saw action in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League

See **MICRONESIAN** on Page 26

Phan represents CNMI in FISU event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association administrative assistant Liz Phan attended the FISU Volunteer Leaders Academy 2017 held early this month at the Volga State Academy of Sport and Tourism in Kazan, Russia.

Phan was one of the more than 100 participants from 174 countries in the seminar that ran from July 2 to 8 and had resource speakers from International Olympic Committee, Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire, including its president Oleg Matytsin, and various sports organizations around the world.

"The overall topic of volunteering is actually very new to me. It's not simply volunteering at an event with little to no training where you just do what you're told to. There's actually a whole lot of work and preparation that goes into it. Our lectures and seminars ranged from different topics correlated with volunteering in sports. Although there were different lessons that seemed more interesting than others, I

believed that the overall experience presented a very big lesson on communication and understanding, especially within a large and diverse group of people," Phan said.

IOC's head of Sport Partnerships and Coordination Jenny Mann shared to Phan and company the importance of volunteering in making an event successful.

"You can sit in an office and write every event need and

have the best plan, but none of that matters unless you

have the right people on the ground," Mann was quoted as saying in the FISU Newsletter forwarded to Northern Marianas Sports Association, which nominated Phan to the academy.

"When I worked at the World Duathlon Championships, I would tell everyone the day

See **PHAN** on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Liz Phan, sixth from left second row, poses for a photo with other participants of the FISU Volunteer Leaders Academy 2017 held in Kazan, Russia early this month.